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The many sides to a well-run alliance

…relations between the West and the Soviet Union, America cannot go it …e except at the price of serious ten…s in the Western alliance.

The US attempt to enforce its rejec…n of Western Europe's Siberian gas …eline contract with the Soviet Union …eatens to open up increasingly deep …cks in the alliance.

The paradoxical present state of af…rs is that sanctions that were inten…d to hit Moscow have rebounded on …erica's partners in Europe as though …y were suddenly totally dependent …the Soviet Union.

There are two reasons why. One is …t Washington has overlooked the …t that alliances of free countries, tire…e though it may be in arriving at …sistent policies, function on the con…y principle.

It is not enough for one ship to press …head as long as the others are nei…able nor willing to keep up the …e speed. That merely breaks up the …voy.

In other words, an alliance can only …ive via consensus, and consensus …st constantly be re-established.

In the state the Western alliance has …n in for some time it too could well …e done with a Philip Habib to tire…sly try and resolve or surmount con…ts of interest.

Failure is not just the fault of the United States. The Europeans have not …ped much lately either.

The other reason is on a different pla…. The United States long failed to un…stand the fundamental nature of the …erian gas pipeline contract.

It is the political stablemate of the … medium-range missile modernisa… resolution. Whether it made econo… sense or would give the Soviet …on the better of the bargain was im…ial at the time.

At a time when, by virtue of previous …et arms policy and the obligation it …sed on the West to react militarily, … tension in East-West ties could be …een the aim was to signify to the …et Union a token of willingness to …perate and to prompt Moscow to … willing in the military sector too.

Besides, Bonn Chancellor Helmut …midt was already under the impres… that he would not be able to muster …ficient domestic support for Nato's …sile modernisation resolution unless …ould credibly demonstrate that he … still committed to detente provided … Soviet Union was still willing.

This may at the time already have … seen by Americans as a sign of in…prehensible weakness by America's …cipal ally in Europe. Maybe it was …

But it must be admitted that an at…pt was at least made in the Federal Republic of Germany to meet the Rus…ans half-way in one sector in order to retain freedom to decide in another sector, that of security policy.

This argument may be difficult to follow now, but that is merely because, as so often, the Soviet Union has failed to live up to the expectations placed on it.

On arms Moscow has yet to indicate readiness to come to realistic terms. Instead, it calls on the Europeans to decouple from the United States in arms policy in much the same way as they are opposed to the US embargo on the Siberian gas pipeline contract.

It expects Europe either to abandon the Nato missile modernisation resolution or at least to draw a distinction between itself and the US delegation at the disarmament talks.

If Washington had only been more clearly aware of the overall political context in which the gas pipeline contract had to be seen, the Americans would probably have been less surprised by the staunch resistance to calling off the deal offered by European governments.

Other failings could have been found to get across to the Soviet Union how dissatisfied the West was with developments in Poland.

Conversely, European governments were not always entirely clear what the Americans had in mind. At times Secretary of State Haig conveyed the impression that agreement might be reached between Europe and the United States on the gas pipeline. It then transpired that Mr Haig enjoyed much too little influence in the White House to be able to undertake firm commitments on Washington's behalf. This was a state of affairs that had been typical of earlier US administrations.

The last straw that prompted the Reagan administration to adopt a tougher approach was President Mitterrand's refusal at the Versailles summit to abide by a common code of behaviour even in granting credits to the Soviet Union.

France, he said, would not be bound by any such joint resolutions. Chancellor Schmidt then learnt from President Reagan at talks in Bonn that US resistance had heightened in intensity.

At present it looks as though Washington has come to regard sanctions as the yardstick of how far the United States can exercise leadership in the Western alliance and whether the Europeans are still prepared to accept US leadership.

In Europe this issue is already under discussion as a matter of national sovereignty, and the increasing gravity of the situation is by no means lacking in danger.

In Nato with its present structure there is no answer to this question in theory, but once it has arisen the problem seems to defy solution.

It can only be surmounted time and again by the desire to reach agreement or by a division of responsibility on which at least agreement has been reached and of the kind that may be reached between larger and smaller powers.

But that now calls for hard work and must not be limited to legal and formal points of view.

Admittedly, we are not yet entirely clear how far US foreign policy under President Reagan is governed by domestic policy considerations.

Partly, after all, this has been the case in Europe with regard to the Siberian gas pipeline contract.

In Bonn too, given the government's current position, there are few signs of creative power other than the Chancellor's determination "not just to to call it a day."

(Der Tagesspiegel, 29 August 1982)

Mr Pym comes to Germany

British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym (left) in Bonn for an exchange of views with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Mr Pym, who succeeded Lord Carrington, discussed European and world issues with Herr Genscher. (Photo: dpa)

Bonn man on a fact-finding trip to China

Egon Bahr, a former East-West negotiator and now Social Democratic spokesman on disarmament, has left on a visit to China.

It is a voyage of discovery that cannot be said to have anything to do with his parliamentary role as chairman of the Bundestag sub-committee on disarmament and arms control.

Yet the results of his talks in Peking are sure to find their way into his parliamentary committee work in Bonn.

China currently occupies an interesting position between Washington and Moscow. For a while the Chinese Communists seemed to be engaged in a heavy flirt with the American capitalists, but those days now appear over.

It looks as though ties with Moscow, which were long at a low ebb, are to be improved.

It is hard to judge from Europe what the motives behind this behaviour are. How much of it is Far Eastern negotiating tactics? How much is aimed at changing circumstances?

These are questions that can only be asked in Peking, and there only, if at all, will answers be found.

So Herr Bahr's voyage of discovery is undoubtedly a major undertaking from the viewpoint of Bonn politics, especially as it is clear how highly America rates the change in climate in its relations with China.

This can be easily implied from the US decision to loosen ties with Taiwan a little.

These are all events that could have a direct or indirect bearing on bids to achieve arms control and disarmament.

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WORLD AFFAIRS

Looking for the next move to deal with a crisis of confidence

The dispute over the Siberian gas pipeline contract between Western Europe and the Soviet Union does not look like trickling away, as Helmut Schmidt hoped after this last visit to America.

Instead, it now looks like coming to a head.

It has been heightened by France's decision to order the French subsidiary of Dresser Industries to abide by the terms of its contract with the Russians and ignore President Reagan's embargo.

For months the dispute has cast a shadow far beyond the mere gas contract, and the latest move threatens to knock the bottom out of transatlantic cooperation as a whole, not just on trade with the East.

What President Reagan originally planned as a crusade against the Soviet Union has emerged as a triumph for Moscow, with the Russians getting not only the pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe.

In addition, they can now look on with pleasure as the Western alliance is plunged into a serious crisis of confidence.

The decision by President Mitterrand and his Industry Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevenement, to prohibit submission to the embargo in their sphere of influence will make the divide between Europe and the United States even deeper.

But it is still no more than a necessary, inevitable continuation of previous European policy in the gas pipeline dispute.

For weeks European Community politicians have reaffirmed their view that the extension of the US embargo to subsidiaries of American companies abroad cannot be reconciled with the principles of international law.

They have expressed this conviction in two diplomatic notes to Washington and in countless talks with US politicians and high-ranking government officials.

Once this effort had proved to no avail Europe was left with little option but to follow energetic words with suitable deeds.

The alternative, to submit to American pressure for the sake of solidarity with the leading Atlantic power, to breach contracts and accept a lengthy delay in construction of the pipeline, would have dealt a serious blow to Europe's credibility as a trading partner, and not only with the East Bloc.

France's Socialist government is no longer alone in being convinced that the dispute with the United States must now be fought out in the open.

Bonn too has encouraged German companies to give priority over President Reagan's political goals to their own interests.

The German government is not sounding as strident a note on this issue as the French, and that is definitely due only in part to Bonn's trade policy powers being less sweeping than those of the French government.

Unlike neighbouring France, which with decided self-assurance reacts allergically to any attack on its sovereignty, Bonn remains determined despite political differences not to overstrain sensitive relations with the United States more than is absolutely necessary.

But restraint in the terms in which objections are couched cannot hide the fact that on the issues at stake both the French and other European countries have taken a tougher stand on President Reagan's embargo policy.

They can but look forward to the US government's response with a mixture of hope, fear and doubt, hopes being based on efforts by Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr Shultz evidently believes there will be a diplomatic solution to the confused situation that both enable Europeans to go ahead with their deals with the Russians while not making President Reagan lose face.

It is doubtful whether Mr Reagan himself can be convinced of the advantages of a strategy of appeasement. Experience has shown he will stick to his guns, given that he remains convinced his policy is right.

If he does, the conflict will look like gaining momentum and proliferating into a deluge of major and minor sanctions, black lists, import bans and other weapons from the trade war arsenal.

The legal disputes this will entail will hold forth career prospects for countless legal experts, but they are not prone to solve political problems. Political problems will increase.

Uwe Vorkötter

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 August 1982)

Visit to China

Continued from page 1

Climate changes can no longer be limited to regions when the superpowers are involved.

So it makes sound sense for Herr Bahr to stop over in Moscow on his way back from Peking.

Since his travels have always had an aura of secret diplomacy, a stopover in the Soviet capital will cause much speculation.

But that is of minor importance. The benefit to be derived from the political information gained is the important point.

Wolfgang Fechner

(Nordwest Zeitung, 25 August 1982)

A new production of an old European dream

The European Community is one of the West's few major political achievements of the century.

Who in the West would not have reason to fear that free Europe, prosperous and peaceful after dreadful wars, was being frittered away?

But it is also true to say that the EEC is no longer a focal point of hopes.

After the Second World War Europe and the future were two sides of the same coin. They now hardly seem to have anything more to do with each other.

Europe now stands for butter mountains, wine lakes and red tape, a reversion to nation-state egoism and general horse-trading for presumed advantages.

All these annoying details have come to the fore as though they were the sum total of European truth, while to the outside world Europe is seen by some as a helpless ship floundering in heavy seas between East and West.

So it is hardly surprising that in recent months the debate among professed Europeans and in EEC capitals has come to centre on how to remedy this, preferably once and for all.

The debate is not new, but headway this time seems to have been made by those who advocate a radical structural reorganisation of the European Community.

They say nothing but a qualitative jump from the Europe of shopkeepers to a Europe much more deeply integrated can still rescue the EEC and end the progressive decline of the Community.

We have long had to wave goodbye to the view held by Europe's founding fathers that a community interlocked economically would automatically develop toward overall political integration.

Others, especially the custodians of the business of government, the powers that be in individual EEC member-states, disagree. They are intent on maintaining what has already been achieved.

Yet when it comes down to brass tacks the advocates of small steps and a more gradual progress toward European integration detail by detail admit that Europe cannot be brought about by decree.

This, basically, is what career Europeans have in mind, the most determined of whom are the members of the European Assembly, directly elected for the first time in 1979 by over 100 million citizens of EEC countries.

Elections to the Euro-Parliament are next due in 1984, and MEPs in Strasbourg are anxious to ensure an election turnout that will enable hopes of a politically united Europe emerging under the aegis of a common parliament to survive.

What they need is a rousing campaign issue, and they feel they have found one in the newly-launched campaign for revision of the Treaty of Rome.

A European Constitution is to be drawn up to rearrange responsibilities in the European Community. Power, including the legislative variety, is to be withdrawn from national bodies and assigned to common European authorities.

It is the old dream of European Union in a new guise, and Euro-MPs in Strasbourg have already passed guidelines as the first step in its direction.

What they envisage is, basically, a division of labour between the European Union and member-states, with the Union being assigned tasks that can be carried out more effectively in common than by individual member-countries.

Powers are to be vested in the European Union, with a reallocation of tax revenue to be negotiated accordingly, while the European Assembly as the watchdog of European Union is to be given legislative powers wrested mainly from the previously well-nigh all-powerful Council of Ministers.

Further progress is envisaged as follows. By next spring the somewhat sparse guidelines are to be fleshed out in Strasbourg as stage two.

Late in 1983, at stage three, the treaty terms are to be submitted to the European Assembly for approval and referred directly to national parliaments for ratification.

This move is intended as an artful bid to circumvent EEC member-governments, who are seen as being incapable of reform.

Will this Strasbourg initiative amount to more than a European election issue? In content is weighs more heavily; its aims are truly revolutionary for this day and age.

Euro-MPs are determined to ensure from Strasbourg that the next direct elections to the European Assembly are a plebiscite for a European Constitution.

The wheels have been set in motion and should the breakthrough fail to prove a complete success, with one national parliament or another refusing to cede sovereign rights (as will probably be the case), Euro-MPs already see themselves on the quiet as making a fresh bid for integration with a smaller member Community.

The days of European romanticism, they say, are over, and if need be Europeans must be forced to accept what is good for them.

So in Strasbourg all the eggs have been put into one basket and it looks as though, in one way or another, a historic decision will be reached in 1984.

The European Assembly, the world's first and so far only directly-elected supranational parliament, will be either elected or voted out, and with it a definite European idea.

Dieter Wenz

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 August 1982)

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HOME AFFAIRS

Basic elements of the Budget will remain, Schmidt says

There will be no major changes in the Bonn Budget for 1983, says the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. The basic elements, reduced consumer spending, cutback on tax benefits and loopholes, more job creation steps and restricted federal borrowing, would remain. He told the *Rheinische Post* that Opposition criticism did not amount to a cohesive concept. "The Opposition wants to fish in murky waters, and all the talk about across-the-board cuts is a smokescreen to hide the fact that it has no concept."

Schmidt: "Like in previous years, we will again keep a close watch on economic developments in the world and at home. Towards the end of the budget debate in November we shall adapt the tax revenue estimates on the basis of economic forecasts based on the latest indicators. The objective is, of course, to pass the budget before the new fiscal year begins, which to all intents and purposes means before Christmas."

The Chancellor denied that there were fundamental differences of views between Finance Minister Manfred Lahnstein (SPD) and Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff (FDP). He added: "I can't see what major and unpredictable events could have happened in the course of this summer to substantially change the estimates Lambsdorff presented to the cabinet in early July."

Schmidt conceded that economic developments in America have been unsatisfactory since then. This, he said, applied particularly to America's fiscal policy which "is marked by a protracted indecisiveness on the part of Congress."

But in the past few days, the Chancellor said, there were some positive signs coming from America, i.e. the fundamental desire to balance some of the exceptional US deficits through tax increases.

In any event, he said, there will be no major changes in the basic concept of Bonn's budget for 1983.

"The basic elements will remain: first, cutbacks in consumption spending; second, a reduction of tax benefits and closure of loopholes; third, additional job creation measures to be financed from the budget; and, fourth, restriction of federal net borrowing to a volume that will be tolerable to the economy as a whole.

"I can see a number of factors in the overall economic development in this country which must be seen in a more optimistic light today than in July. This includes the very positive development of the balance of payments — and not only the balance of trade. It also includes the decline of long-term interest rates in this country. I see no reason for pessimism though I can in some instances understand it — as for instance the weak mood over AEG. But general pessimism is unwarranted."

R.P.: "The economic slump and unemployment will mean new tax revenue shortfalls and additional money going to the Federal Labour Office. Is the budget hole to the tune of billions to be plugged with additional borrowing? Or are direct or indirect tax hikes and higher levies being considered?"

Schmidt: "I refuse to speak of holes to the tune of billions. I also refuse to accept that what the opposition has said so far is a cohesive concept. Herr Strauss, for instance, has demanded annual savings of DM30bn or, conversely, added revenues of the same magnitude. He neither said where the money is to be saved nor did he say where it's to come from. The magnitude of such a figure is totally nonsensical. Herr Zimmermann wants more money for the Bundeswehr, Herr Lenzer more for research and development, the CDU secretary-general, Herr Geissler, demands more money for housing construction and a privileged position for the formation of private capital.

"And then all the *Länder* in the Bundesrat — at least for the time being — oppose the three-month postponement of salary increases for the civil service ... although civil service jobs are least at risk; in fact, these people don't have to worry about their jobs at all.

"Herr Dregger wants a ten per cent cut in subsidies; Herr Stoltenberg, on the other hand, opposes across the board subsidy cuts. He would like to exclude shipbuilding. Herr von Weizsäcker wants to exclude air traffic to and from Berlin from subsidy cuts; Herr Späth says that all government benefits must be cut by five per cent, and this evidently includes child allowances, rent subsidies and unemployment benefits. Only a week later, Herr Kohl spoke of a need for eight per cent cuts.

"I ask myself, what do they mean by 'subsidies'? Or what is state benefits' supposed to mean? It's complete chaos. The opposition wants to fish in murky waters and all the talk of across the board cuts in subsidies is a smokescreen to hide its own lack of a concept. I regret that the conservatives now speak with so many tongues."

R. P.: "What about more government borrowing and raising taxes or levies? And what do you say to the economising ideas of the FDP? Will these items lead to the next coalition conflict?"

Schmidt: "Officially, I know of no FDP economising ideas other than those on which our joint resolutions on the draft budget for fiscal 1983 were based in early July. There have been some statements that I don't want to evaluate at the moment. I can therefore see no coalition conflict in the offing.

"Certainly, there are narrow limits for further federal net borrowing; and the same applies to the burdens that can be imposed on the broad masses. I would not like to have to present a recipe à la Ronald Reagan who first drastically reduced taxes and now had to struggle to raise them again.

"I'm generally against tax increases. But as everybody knows, I am open to a surtax for the higher income brackets. On the other hand, some of the spokesmen — especially those of the CDU/CSU — must also realise that you cannot cut back on social security benefits every six months.

"In other words, we find ourselves in a very tight corset. Anybody who demands that others should forfeit something to which they are now entitled must be prepared to do the same.

"This is generally applicable. Somebody who rejects tax splitting for couples earning more than DM100,000 a year on the grounds that this would endanger the family or somebody who suggests to the AEG staff that they forfeit part of their wages without providing a good example on the supervisory and management boards cannot unilaterally put all the burdens on the shoulders of the man-in-the-street."

'I'm generally against tax increases' ... Helmut Schmidt. (Photo: Sven Simon)

R. P.: "For trade unionists, even the cabinet's economising decisions in early July go too far and they refuse to accept further cutbacks. In fact, they demand a review of the plans that have been drafted so far, along with further job creating measures by the state. How do you as the chancellor want to suit the unions without rubbing your coalition partner the wrong way, and vice versa? What is to be done to improve relations between the state and the unions?"

Schmidt: "Relations between the unions and the state are by no means bad. Never before has a German state given so much scope to the unions. It's true that many unionists consider the economising measures of the cabinet as going too far. They're not the only ones. Doctors also consider the new regulations for medical fees as going to far. Farmers are also dissatisfied.

"I know no *organisation, including* the German Civil Service Federation, that doesn't complain. There is a general race in progress to ensure that one's own complaint is not too late in reaching the public.

"Here, the officials of the various organisations are much more emphatic and much more annoying with their exaggerations than their rank and file.

"The great majority of German citizens know that a number of companies are faced with a difficult situation at the moment and that they therefore cannot pay more taxes. They also know tax increases would be nonsense. The majority of our citizens know that when there is no economic growth worth mentioning, their own incomes can also grow only minimally. Most Germans say to themselves: If I continue to do as well as I've been doing up to now I'll be satisfied. Of course, this does not apply to the jobless. In fact, unemployment is my real big worry."

The Chancellor said that the economic, financial and social system of the Federal Republic of Germany was nevertheless one of the best in the world. "But of course there is room for improvement."

The oil price explosion and the trend towards an inflationary financing of state budgets have led to a deep recession in the world economy, "and this has hit us as well," the Chancellor said.

"It is therefore necessary to make it clear that not only the private incomes of people holding jobs can no longer rise as they did before but that this also applies to the net incomes of pensioners. This is no crisis of the market economy system; but today's situation is salutary inasmuch as it forces us to restrict ourselves to what is feasible for the future."

Hans-Henning Zencke

(Rheinische Post, 25 August 1982)

Spending discussions affected by tactical factors

It is most unlikely that the Chancellor and his Economic Affairs Minister will want to argue over the finer theoretical points of economic forecasts.

The fact that Helmut Schmidt and Count Lambsdorff now differ on the suitable moment for a review of the budget in the light of new economic indicators is primarily due to tactical considerations.

In objective terms, there is much that speaks for Lambsdorff's position. Anybody who wants to make provisions against additional budgetary risks hardly needs to wait for the late autumn forecast of the Council of Economic Advisers.

It has been obvious for some time that the spending earmarked in the budget for unemployment falls short of requirements.

If the necessary cover for the added spending is to come from economising measures in state benefits, the time to discuss this is now.

November will be too late even in terms of legal technicalities because it will be impossible then to discuss cutbacks in state benefits that are to become effective on 1 January 1983.

It is rather lucky for Count Lambsdorff and the Free Democrats that these considerations suit their tactical plans.

If Hans Dietrich Genscher intends to give the decisive signal for his party's switch (to the conservatives, and thus bring down the governing coalition) in the early autumn, he must have a vested interest in making use of the next instalment of the controversy within the coalition over economic matters as early as possible so that he can use the deteriorating climate between SPD and FDP as a vehicle.

The Chancellor, on the other hand, must have an interest in postponing the fiscal issue. Why should he antagonise the unionist-middle class bastion within his SPD through economising plans drafted in early September? Chances are, after all, that by late October these plans can no longer be implemented.

Since the disunity in the waning coalition is beginning to gain the upper hand over the common ground between the two parties, there is little sense in papering over the obvious controversy with apparent agreement within the cabinet.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 August 1982)

■ GERMANY

Konrad Adenauer, the Wall, and the Kennedy Connection

East Germany's Communist Party leader Erich Honecker says the construction of the Berlin Wall on 13 August 1961 was a "deed of peace." West Germany's CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl calls it a "testimony to the political and moral defeat of communism."

When Honecker's predecessor, Walter Ulbricht, backed by the then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, began the construction of the Wall, Bonn Chancellor Konrad Adenauer reacted with great circumspection.

We owe it to him that the crisis in the heart of Europe two decades ago led neither to a conflict in Berlin nor to an uprising in the GDR. We also owe it to him that there was no split between the Federal Republic of Germany and its Western allies.

Adenauer proved himself a statesman who handled what could have become a world-wide crisis with acumen and a sense of responsibility.

This is roughly how the Cologne historian Hans-Peter Schwarz analysed the Berlin crisis and the construction of the Wall in a lecture organised by *Stiftung Bundeskanzler Adenauer Haus.*

Recalling what happened before the Berlin crisis, Schwarz said that though there had been scattered warnings that something was brewing, the world had no idea what really was going to happen.

Former FDP party leader Erich Mende said that the head of the West German intelligence service had passed on information that a disastrous move was in the making in the East; and Eugen Gerstenmaier, then speaker of the Bundestag, said he had received a warning letter from publisher Axel Springer.

The letter (which has since been published and was dated 10 July 1961) predicted that Berlin would be "totally divided by a national frontier."

But neither in Bonn nor in the other Western capitals did anybody anticipate that Berlin would be cut in two by a wall.

The Americans did expect Soviet measures aimed at stabilising the Ulbricht regime and considered the possibility that East Berlin might be sealed off.

Most of Schwarz's lecture and the subsequent discussion was devoted to analyses of the reactions of Adenauer and US President John F. Kennedy and what they could have done.

The discussion was attended by high-ranking politicians and party representatives, including Johann Baptist Gradl, Franz Barsig and former Bonn ambassador to Washington Wilhelm Grewe.

Some people in the West still believe that the construction of the Wall should have been stopped by tanks.

But the fact is that the Kennedy Administration had expressly restricted its central European involvement.

The President was determined not to go beyond the position he outlined in a speech on 25 July 1961 in which h[e un]dertook to defend West Berlin "a[s a] frontier of peace and freedom." [His] idea was to maintain the status [quo] and free access to it. But no activity [was] to extend to East Berlin.

Britain's Prime Minister Harold M[acmillan], and French President de Ga[ulle] were even less prepared than the Am[eri]cans to put undue strain on their [rela]tions with the Soviet Union.

Had the worst come to the w[orst] Paris would have taken some steps[, as] most of de Gaulle's troops at the [time] were still occupied in the Algerian [thea]tre.

While Franz Josef Strauss, Bonn [De]fence Minister at the time, favou[red a] demonstrative advance of Ameri[can] armour on the autobahn from H[elm]stedt to Berlin, Adenauer opposed [any] move that would run counter to [the] American President's concept.

It was in no way insensitivity to [the] destiny of Berlin that made Adena[uer] decide not to make a demonstration [trip] to the wall as it was being built.

He decided not to go to Berlin [even] though he realised that his political [op]ponent Willy Brandt (SPD), then m[ayor] of Berlin, would benefit, in terms [of] votes, at the coming general election.

Schwarz stressed Adenauer's co[ntri]bution to peace while reserving ju[dg]ment on Kennedy's response.

The critical attitude towards t[he] American President in West Germ[any] was shown by the attack launch[ed] against Kennedy, the American m[issio]nary of democracy, by the then [...] Finance Minister Heinz Starke (FDP).

The tone of Starke's attack was so [...] meaning that Kurt Birrenbach (CDU) was prompted to put things into [per]spective by pointing to Kennedy's c[ha]risma and statecraft on a global plane.

Starke had frequently expressed r[e]servations about Kennedy's Bay of P[igs] fiasco (when Cubans in America a[t]tempted to invade their home country), his unsatisfactory meeting with Khrush[]chev in Vienna and now his acceptance of the Berlin Wall.

Birrenbach pointed out that it should not be forgotten that it was the sa[me] Kennedy who, in the autumn of 19[62] had won the upper hand in the dir[ect]

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Chemical warfare: revealing secrets of intelligence

While the peace movements rivet their attention on nuclear war, preparations for chemical warfare are largely overlooked.

This adds weight to the report on the experiences of the East German physiologist Frucht who in the 1960s provided the United States authorities with extensive information on Warsaw Pact preparations for chemical warfare — especially research in the field of cold-resistant nerve gases, bacteria and other toxic substances.

The extent to which the United States profited from this information is still unknown.

It is worth pondering whether — had Frucht not put a spanner in the works — the Soviet Union would have been in *a position to paralyse an important radar station in Alaska. This would* have enabled the USSR to launch land or submarine based intercontinental missiles that could have hit America without warning.

Since there is as yet no conclusive evidence on the use by the Soviet Union of chemical weapons in South-East Asia, the report by the two British authors (in the style of "now it can be told") on research into chemical weapons two decades ago might shed some light on this aspect.

West German television broadcast a programme on Professor Frucht last summer; but the book provides information that no TV programme can encompass in such detail.

The reader is told how intelligence services handle their "sources," i.e. people who stick out their necks on their behalf — and this includes top men.

Professor Frucht must frequently have despaired at the arbitrary, and in some cases outright stupid manner in which his secret service superior in West Berlin handled contacts.

Everything depended on what head office considered useful at the moment. Frequently, the head office capriciously insisted on unimportant items while overlooking or ignoring what was really important.

It appears that a spy can count on neither protection nor psychological understanding from headquarters. Another thing that transpires is that intelligence services — even those with a good reputation — are essentially operated by run-of-the-mill bureaucrats, some of whom have been "turned" by the opposition.

Other information the book provides on the Frucht case concerns communist interrogation techniques.

Clive Freeman and Gwynne Roberts: *Der kälteste Krieg — Professor Frucht und das Kampfstoff-Geheimnis* (The Coldest War — Professor Frucht and the Chemical Weapons Secret), translated by Erwin Duncker, published by Verlag Ullstein, Berlin/Frankfurt/Vienna; 322 p; DM32. (Note: The English language edition is not expected to be available until next summer.)

These techniques appear to have reached the height of perfection in East Germany. The detailed description of them is matched only by the interrogation records of the young writer Jürgen Fuchs of the Biermann circle (who was nowhere near as important as Frucht).

The absolute superiority of the interrogator over the interrogated (achieved through psychological analysis and by *taking advantage of every personal* weakness) is inescapable.

He finally gained his freedom when he was exchanged against a communist senator of the Allende era who had been held as a prisoner in Chile.

He is convinced that had the media picked up his case during his imprisonment they would not have harmed but helped him.

All intelligence services are sensitive to pressure and therefore try to get anything that might prove embarrassing off their backs. In Frucht's case, they took their time: 10 years.

Ernst-Otto Maetzke

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 July 1982)

East Berlin keeps feelers out for moonlighters in the West

There is nothing new about the Federal Republic of Germany being a hub of the East Bloc's spy network. Its position directly along the ideological dividing line invites this.

It therefore surprises no-one that the GDR is now exploiting the recession in this country by recruiting jobless West Germans as spies. It only highlights intelligence work realities in this country.

The Federal Intelligence Service, the Military Counter-Intelligence, and the Office for the Protection of the Constitution are fighting the legions of communist moles and their anti-democratic sympathisers in the West.

But a recent news item from Bavaria reawakens memories of the old Hitler era poster with the black silhouette and the caption: "Beware, the Enemy is Listening".

Bavaria's Interior Minister, Gerold Tandler, says that works council members and trade unionists may be recruited by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution as informers in a bid to unmask enemy agents.

Were not the survivors of Hitler's state of informers rightly proud of the fact that, unlike the GDR, the Federal Republic of Germany shed that legacy? Is the necessary defence against infiltration and sabotage to result in an informer mentality?

"Firms must not be allowed to become sites of anti-constitutional activities," says Bavaria's Ministry of the Interior.

Indeed! But must we really recruit agents among staff members? Is it not sophism for the Bonn Interior Ministry to say: "Information about workers councils, trade unions and individual council members who do not promote anti-constitutional drives is of no interest whatsoever for the Office for the Protection of the Constitution."

What a merry atmosphere at w[ork] when there is constant rumour ab[out] one person or the other in one dep[art]ment or the other earning a handso[me] bit of extra cash by acting as a liste[ning] post!

Or when you don't know whe[ther] your fellow worker who always joins [in] when two or three people are having [a] chat is an informer.

Employers and employees should [in] their own interests oppose such [at]tempts.

The trade unions rightly point to [the] fact that their democratic substance [has] always been enough to ward off tho[se] who tried to undermine this coun[try] and its economic and social structures.

Norbert Middel[...]

(Handelsblatt, 18 August 1982)

■ LABOUR

Apprenticeships becoming harder to find

The battle of the bulge should be over — in theory. This is the business of providing more and more school leavers with career training. But the figures have not been quite right.

It has been a problem for the past five years, but the Standing Conference of *Land* Education Ministers said numbers would peak by 1981 at the latest.

There would then be less pressure and competition for apprenticeships, whereas the universities would suffer from even worse overcrowding.

Yet the number of would-be apprentices has increased substantially this autumn, and not by five per cent as forecast in the last vocational training white paper but by 15 per cent.

The number of apprenticeships on offer has declined by seven per cent, leaving Bonn Education Minister Björn Engholm well able to claim that the situation has probably never been as difficult.

In numbers there are 450,000 apprenticeships available and 430,000 school-leavers clamouring to learn a trade.

But these are the overall figures. Regionally the position can be much more serious.

Helmut Rohde, a former Bonn Education Minister, once said the ideal position was for there to be 12 per cent more apprenticeships on offer than there were young people keen to serve one.

Those were the days! This year the relationship between supply and demand is worse than it has ever been.

Why, given statistics that indicated the pressure ought by now to have eased, are there still so many young people on the lookout for an apprenticeship?

The answer is last year's school-leavers who failed to find one and did a year's basic training or otherwise tided over the time until they could try again.

An extra year's compulsory schooling in some *Länder* has compounded the problem, while more and more youngsters are consulting the labour exchange in their quest for an apprenticeship.

The claim that young people insist on a particular trade has long been disproved. The labour exchanges say they behave in a manner appropriate to the market, which presumably means they take what they can get.

The Advisory Council on Scientific Affairs has noted a similar tendency among university freshmen to react very sensitively to information on labour market prospects.

Young people end up taking the jobs offered, labour exchange officials say. Initially they are keen to learn the trade they fancy, but the closer the deadline comes, the readier they are to make concessions.

"They then respond flexibly and adapt to what is available," says a West Berlin official.

At the end of June the number of apprenticeships on offer in the city was reported to be 4.3-per-cent up on 1981 to 12,052. Officials attribute this improvement to special efforts on the city council's part.

But the increase looks less impressive when compared with the larger number of applicants for the apprenticeships available. At the end of June their number was up 22.8 per cent on a year ago.

So there are 12,672 youngsters to share 12,052 apprenticeships. Besides, about 4,500 young people are registered as unemployed.

The West Berlin region of *IG Metall*, the iron, steel and engineering workers' union, is worried the number of unemployed youngsters in the city could soar to 8,000.

A situation combining, as Herr Engholm puts it, an unprecedented recession and a boom in the number of school-leavers calls for swift and unorthodox action.

Yet officialdom seems to be helpless to the point of the grotesque. There are regular appeals to employers to give youngsters a break, accompanied by a mention of how splendid the response has been in the past.

The Bonn government has bowed, against its better judgement, to pressure from industry and waived changes in apprenticeship regulations that would have required the employer to pass a test of suitability to train youngsters.

It did so because employers argued that the new regulations would make providing an apprenticeship even more difficult when the emphasis should be on encouraging companies to train youngsters.

But now this argument is brushed aside by the management, with the Institute of German Industry, the Cologne-based research unit of the Employers' Confederation, noting in a Press release that:

"It would be completely wrong to expect a breakthrough in the vocational training job market to result from the amendment to vocational training regulations or the easing of youth employment restrictions."

The institute has suggested a wage freeze for apprentices, saying that if this could be agreed in future rounds of wage talks an improvement might be brought about.

Such arguments must be seen against the background of stiff opposition by the employers over the past decade to proposals for a vocational training levy.

They have consistently argued that a levy would be a serious inroad into their traditional responsibility for training their own staff.

On grounds of principle they preferred to meet the cost of training apprentices themselves. They objected to a union-backed levy to help provide more apprenticeships.

Industry might not object to government subsidies or incentives of other kinds, but vocational training must by and large remain the joint responsibility of employers and trades colleges.

Employers were not even prepared to consider greater emphasis on the trades college aspect of vocational training.

They knew the 60s baby boom would be leaving school and clamouring for apprenticeships and insisted on retaining responsibility for providing them.

So it you want to know what happened to these extra apprenticeships, ask the employers. All the government can try to do is mend a few fences and ease a situation for which it is not to blame.

Dorothea Hilgenberg

(Der Tagesspiegel, 22 August 1982)

Levy suggested to create jobs

Bonn Education Minister Björn Engholm has advised chambers of commerce and industry to raise levies to provide more apprenticeships.

In this way they could raise DM250m a year by efforts of their own.

He also called for local bodies to be set up to help young people looking for an apprenticeship to make direct contact with potential employers.

He made his recommendations after conferring with Social Democratic *Land* Education Ministers on current difficulties in providing training facilities for school-leavers.

A levy, he said, would present no legal problems. A pfennig per job per working hour would cost a company with a payroll of 10 DM170 a year.

Gert Weisskirchen, a Social Democratic spokesman on educational affairs in the Bonn Bundestag, had previously suggested a levy of two pfennigs per hour per man.

This, he said, would raise DM800m a year all over the country, which would be enough to provide apprenticeships for all young people who were unable to find a place as a trainee this autumn.

At the end of July, the Ministry said, 115,000 young people were still on the lookout for an apprenticeship, as against 50,000 apprenticeships still on offer at labour exchanges.

dpa

(Nordwest Zeitung, 26 August 1982)

Continued from page 4

confrontation with the Soviet navy off Cuba.

It would have been desirable for the discussion in the *Adenauer Haus* to have stated more clearly that Khrushchev's defeat off Cuba also marked the failure of his aggressive Berlin policy that began with Moscow's threatening note of 27 November 1958.

The note suggested the acceptance by the Western powers of a "demilitarised, free city of West Berlin's — a move that was intended to drive the Western powers out of the city, eventually providing the GDR with a genuine capital.

Whatever Kennedy's options in a bid to prevent the construction of the Wall might have been, he never considered relinquishing West Berlin.

Khrushchev's blueprint failed — not least due to Konrad Adenauer's wise and restrained response to the crisis in 1961.

Seen in this light, Khrushchev's foray to Cuba in 1962 was a "forward flight".

Gerd Ressing

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 20 August 1982)

Shorter shifts, same pay, cutbacks saved

Gelsenkirchen is an industrial city of 300,000 in the Ruhr that has 11.5 per cent out of work.

But Gelsenkirchen has pioneered what may turn out be a revolutionary change.

Nine jobs have been saved by Nacanco, a US manufacturer of cans for the soft drink industry, working a 36-hour week on full pay. Nine is a small figure, but it represents a breakthough.

Nacanco's Gelsenkirchen works employs 180, including 130 shift workers. Since June the shift workers have worked a 36-hour week for the same pay as before.

The company has ridden roughshod over a tenet of the employers' association that there must be no cut in the number of hours worked per week.

The shorter working week was negotiated, oddly enough, as part of a redundancy settlement. On 11 May the management had served notice to sack 26 of its workers.

The redundancies were necessary, it argued, to rationalise output and boost productivity.

Nacanco and IG Metall, the iron, steel and engineering workers' union, agreed to terms that rescued nine of the 26 jobs, reducing the working week at the same time.

At Nacanco staff work six days a week and round the clock, which would normally mean three shifts and a 48-hour week.

After the 1979 steelworkers' strike the shift workers were given a free shift every fourth day, but despite complicated arrangements it was often cancelled or rescheduled.

So many workers reported sick that some other arrangement seemed inevitable.

The nucleus of the deal is a fourth shift, with Nacanco shift workers now working on a four-week rota: 32 hours on four days in the first week, 40 hours on five days in the second, 24 hours on three days in the third and 48 hours on six days in the fourth.

Depending on the shift plan workers can have up to a week off between these four working weeks. They will not have to work more than six days in succession.

Werner Schreiber, IG Metall's Gelsenkirchen branch secretary, feels the terms agreed with Nacanco are exemplary in some respects.

The Nacanco agreement is the first of its kind in the engineering industry with a company that is a member of the employers' association.

The only other company with a similar scheme is Löser, a Wiesbaden manufacturer of waffle toasters, who work a 35-hour week. But Löser is not a member of the employers' association.

This is an important consideration as the union sees it. IG Metall are keen to negotiate a shorter working week on full pay in the next round of wage talks.

In the past the employers have closed ranks in their opposition to the idea, but now a precedent has been set.

"As a rule," Herr Schreiber says, "works agreements cannot provide for shorter working hours. That is a matter to be settled in regional wage agreements.

"But in this case we have arrived at a solution that does not run counter to the regional agreement."

The Nacanco deal, he argues, proves the union's case that shorter working hours can create jobs, or at least prevent redundancies.

The Gelsenkirchen company certainly chose to take a pragmatic view and set aside ideological considerations. The employers' association might choose to follow suit.

Michael Brocker

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 22 August 1982)

■ INDUSTRY

All signposts point to a pessimistic future

The mood in German industry has never been so gloomy. The reasons are the high rate of insolvencies, the desperate trouble at AEG, rising unemployment, fewer orders, high interest rates and a threatening trade war with America.

A glance back, at last year's balance sheets doesn't brighten the gloom at all.

The top 100 have their shining stars even in this business year. Fuel and power company Veba has lifted its sales to near DM50bn; Daimler closed the year with the best profits in its history; Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm grew by almost 50 per cent; and IBM managed to generate DM500m in profits from a sales volume of only DM8bn.

But these are exceptions. The fact is that:

- Once solid branches of industry are declining rapidly;
- What growth there is in industry comes primarily from inflation and mergers;
- Innovative firms have become rare among giant companies.

Steel mills, electrical engineering, construction, shipbuilding, it makes no difference: what once spearheaded *Wirtschaftswunder* is now spearheading nothing.

Steel and electrical companies were the main failures of the 1981 business year. Six companies closed last year with losses of more than DM100m, and three of them were steel mills: Hoesch, Salzgitter and Röchling.

Steel earnings grew only haltingly. Thyssen and Klöckner were the only ones who managed to hold their positions in the list of annual sales.

The steel mills were also among those companies that had the largest layoffs. Hoesch alone reduced its work force by 10 per cent in the year.

Electrical engineering is in poor shape. The AEG trouble disguises the fact that this whole branch of industry is in difficulties.

In 1981, three names disappeared from the list of Germany's 100 largest industrial firms. All were electrical: Miele, Bauknecht and Diehl.

Makers of home appliances and electronic equipment were particularly hard hit. Grundig and Philips failed to improve their sales figures, despite inflation, and their work forces shrank by 15 per cent.

Even Siemens (the leader in this branch) which had long ago rid itself of the home appliances sector through a cooperation agreement with Bosch, made a relatively poor showing in the list of Germany's five largest concerns.

While Veba, VW, Daimler and Hoechst showed growth of at least 14 per cent, Siemens only just managed 8 per cent.

Germany's growth champions were again branches of industry and companies whose business is linked in one way or another with the energy sector.

Disregarding some exceptions, oil companies and energy supply firms showed considerable sales increases.

The oil companies demonstrated, however, that high sales figures do not necessarily mean high profits. Despite their high prices, Deutsche BP and Chevron closed the year with considerable losses.

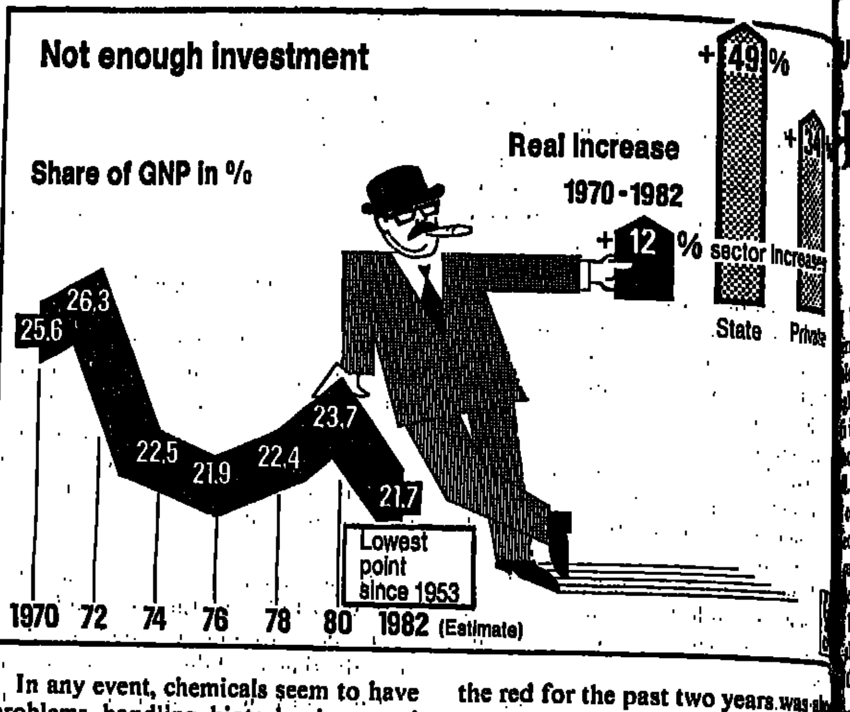
A comparison of earnings shows that the big oil corporations' business is far from lucrative for the national economy as a whole. BP was in place number 60 in terms of earnings although among the top ten in sales.

The disproportion between sales and earnings is similar for other oil companies.

Even Veba, which is first in sales, is only sixth in earnings. The reason is that high purchase prices for oil have bloated the sales figures.

For instance, the growth in turnover in the chemicals industry resulted only from the high prices for petrochemicals. In real terms, the manufacturers of paints, plastics, fibres and fertilisers sold less in 1981 than in the previous year.

Though Hoechst, BASF and Bayer managed to maintain their places on the industrial list, the chemicals giants are among those branches of industry that are in danger.



In any event, chemicals seem to have problems handling biotechnology and microelectronics, the two great promises for the future.

Innovation shows results in the performance list of Germany's industry only where microelectronics is involved.

The earnings champion remains the computer manufacturer IBM. IBM's small competitor, Nixdorf, is still trying to grow up; but it ranks 76th in the list of earnings, despite its 91st place in sales.

And the future looks bad: the ten largest industrial corporations — all of them still blue chip — have done away with 100,000 jobs since the 1974 oil shock; and the employment forecasts are even more grim.

No economist worth his salt has any doubt now that next year's unemployment figure will be well above the two million mark.

The only people who have more work than they can cope with are the receivers.

Like AEG chief executive Heinz Dürr, more than 5,700 German businessmen have so far this year applied to the courts for receivership.

That is 50 per cent more than a year earlier, which was already marked by an unprecedented tide of bankruptcies. And the companies that go bust today will be unable to provide jobs tomorrow.

What has heightened the pessimism of the business community and economists still further is the fact that even the last pillar of business is showing signs of collapsing: exports.

At the end of last year, when there was already a slump on the domestic market, it was exports that still kept the economy ticking over. As a result, the balance of payments that had been in the red for the past two years was al[so able] to come into the black again. But [this] summer saw a severe decline in for[eign] orders as a result of continued rece[ssion] in the buyer countries.

Since the slump in European coun[tries] is likely to continue next year, Ger[man] business must not pin its hopes [on] foreign customers, says the Kiel-ba[sed] Institute for the World Economy. T[he] revitalisation must be generated [at] home.

But there is no hope of demand [in] consumer goods markets. Private con[sumption] is dropping steadily compar[ed] with the overall sales of the re[tail] trade.

Surveys show that purse-strings [will] be kept tight in the near future as [well]. This is not surprising: there [is not] enough money around.

Lower wages

Moved by industry's complaints that high wage costs were stripping it of the money needed for investment, the trade unions have agreed to wage deals that made the workers' earnings (adjusted for inflation) decline.

The unions reasoned that it was more important to safeguard existing and create new jobs than to generate more consumption.

But the business community did not stick to its part of the bargain, and the promised investments failed to materialise. In fact, renewals and expansions of production plants were scrapped or delayed.

The daily *Frankfurter Rundschau* angrily accused management of going on an investment strike.

The fact is that it is not so much a shortage of cash that has stripped industry of the courage to invest.

There is enough cash around despite all the crying about poor earnings and high costs. According to Bundesbank statistics, the business community invested about DM54bn on capital markets in 1981 alone — close to DM16bn more than in the previous year. In the same period, investments in plant and equipment declined by 33 per cent.

The reason for this is the high returns offered by investments in securities — a much safer and more profitable business than expansion and similar investments.

But when managers behave like pensioners concerned with their nest eggs industry shows signs of old age; and when that happens the outlook is bleak indeed.

Wolfgang Gehrmann

(Die Zeit, 20 August 1982)

Going to the wall

Insolvencies and debt rescheduling cases

1970	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	1982 (Estimate)
2716	2971	3097	4000	5976	6953	6808	6929	5949	5483	6315	8494	12800

State company chiefs 'acted like capitalists'

The managers of German state-owned companies acted like the toughest of free-enterprise champions during the 1975 slump, says a report by an employers research group, the Institute of German Industry (IW).

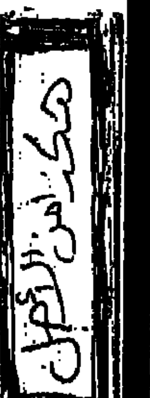
Instead of trying to stabilise the situation with a sound investment and employment policy, they laid off workers regardless of the employment outlook and ignored overall economic requirements.

They were guided entirely by product demand and liquidity.

Many of the companies are run purely on business lines and managers are said to have ignored the common benefit element when it was their duty not to ignore it.

IW wants companies to be sold off to the private sector: if all this is true, IW should call for the resignation of the managers, not privatisation.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 August 1982)



BUSINESS

Home electronics gets the digital fidgetals

[The] home electronics industry in [Ger]many is not doing well. Video [and colo]ur TV sets are the best sellers [thou]gh sales have dropped off.

[It] is doing so badly that this year's [sh]ow in Düsseldorf includes video [...]. Neither manufacturers nor re[tailers c]ould live only on hi-fi sales.

[Vide]o recorders have been having a [...], especially during the World [Cup s]occer.

[The i]ndustry is hoping that innova[tion, a]long with a gimmick or two, will [revive] the market.

Home electronics firms have invested a lot of money in new technologies and promotion. but there are warehouses full of unsold colour television sets, video recorders and hi-fi sets.

High interest rates and the fact that modern stereo colour television sets are more expensive than the traditional sets mean that a lot of money is tied up by the surplus.

Throughout the world, production capacity for home electronics equipment is large, and demand is not rising as fast as the industry had hoped. Declining prices have failed to lure buyers back.

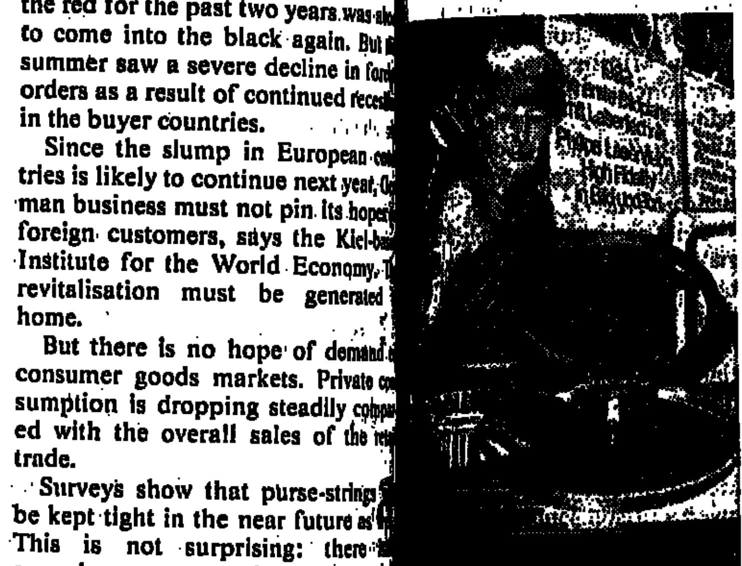
Video sales, for example, were booming until last Christmas and retail margins were adequate.

Then the results of huge Japanese production capacity, far beyond sales potential, began to become apparent. About DM1,000 was slashed off set prices.

The irony is that the Japanese themselves had been accusing the Germans of being concerned with sales only at the expense of earnings.

There is no end in sight to low prices. The manufacturers at Düsseldorf will try and maintain high prices, at least for new products, but they are unlikely to succeed.

Major Japanese manufacturers are still using price as their main competition weapon.



[...]wis pictures on a disc as well.

Picture, picture on the wall, which is the biggest seller of all? ... this year's hi-fi (and video) show in Düsseldorf. (Photos: dpa)

Prices are likely to fall even further because the Japanese have come up against competition the European video System 2000 which is doing well. It is now second only to the VHS system.

For stereo TV sets, higher prices are unlikely. Even if the major TV channels decide to introduce more stereo programmes — and that is not likely — prices are not likely to firm.

But German makers are still ahead of the Japanese in this sector, and they have caught up with hi-fi.

The Japanese are not as confident as they once were, especially in hi-fi. The years of tough competition have taught the Germans some lessons. One is that new technologies will sell, even in a saturated market.

For this reason, the Düsseldorf show will be dominated by digital technology and microcomputers.

This has improved the sound reproduction in audio sets still further and has simplified the handling of video sets.

Mini sets and micro-cassettes mark developments in the pocket stereo sector.

The Düsseldorf show will see the first official presentation of the compact disc, the CD record with laser sound pickup.

But the conventional record has also improved its quality as a result of new technologies; and this is bound to hamper CD sales. The same applies to the video disc, which will have to stand its ground against the video tape.

These few examples show that developments in home electronics continue. The consumer will ask himself: Isn't this business going over board with innovations? Is it not overtaxing the capacity of the market? No sooner has the consumer adapted to the video tape than the video disc brings new commercial uncertainties.

Ther is much room for video-tape improvement. But the industry acts as if the acme of technology has already been reached.

Things are even worse with portable video sets, where there are only interim solutions without a genuine alternative to the conventional super 8 movie camera. There is plenty of technical mumbo-jumbo that only deters the buyer.

It will take some time for home electronics equipment — especially the TV screen — to become a living room communications centre when the individual will be able to enter a dialogue with his home computer. Games and entertainment remain the dominant elements.

Karl Ohem

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 August 1982)

Home electronics will remain a growth business in Germany through 1982, says a survey prepared by the Nuremberg-based *Gesellschaft für Konsum-, Markt und Absatzforschung* (GfK), a consumer research company.

Video keeps the picture bright(er)

The survey was presented to mark the opening of the *Hifivideo 82* home electronics show in Düsseldorf.

Sales last year in home electronics were Dm12.6bn. They are expected to rise to DM13.4bn this year, says the survey, primarily because of video, which will capture a market share of 21 per cent or DM3.8bn compared with 16 per cent and DM2.6bn last year. Sales of blank and recorded video cassettes made up about DM600m of last year's sales. They are expected to rise to just under DM1bn this year.

GfK estimates that in the middle of this year 7 to 8 per cent of German homes had sets.

Hi-fi sets (market saturation just over 50 per cent) are expected to account for 22 per cent of 1982 sales (compared with 25 per cent last year).

After a stormy growth period, 1981 saw a breathing space in this sector, the report says.

The emphasis in sales is now shifting to medium-priced sets that are expected to attract new consumers.

A new rise in hi-fi sales is likely to occur around the middle of the decade when renewal needs and technical innovation, especially in digital technology, will have an effect.

Colour TV sets are expected to account for 33 (34) per cent of DM4.47bn (DM4.2bn) in 1982. They will remain the main pillar of this branch of industry.

Stereo sound is expected to get a boost from an increase in the number of stereo television programmes.

dpa/vwd

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 21 August 1982)

EXTREMISTS

Trying to stop march of a racial sub-culture

Interior Ministry figures on right-wing extremism and xenophobia make disturbing reading.

Last year there was an average of one incident a day against foreigners, often with serious consequences.

To fail to appreciate that this is a danger sign is to misunderstand the situation, which is that there will soon be five million foreign residents.

They not only present Germans with problems; they often create problems for themselves too.

Take the abduction and murder of Wilhelm Brassel, a jam manufacturer in Bad Honnef, near Bonn. His kidnappers seem to have been either Turks or Pakistanis.

Delegations representing both nationalities took part in his funeral procession. They are on the company's payroll and keenly aware of their position.

There could hardly be a more telling illustration of how difficult the situation of minorities in the Federal Republic of Germany has become.

The latest Interior Ministry report on political extremism fortunately does not content itself with listing the growing number of crypto-Nazi and violent racist organisations in painstaking detail.

Yet listing them is important enough; it gives some idea of the dubious names behind which narrow-mindedness, xenophobia and potential violence lurk.

It testifies to a racist sub-culture that in narrow-minded, ignorant superciliousness makes itself out to be the saviour of the Western world.

It goes without saying that government measures can at best hope to deal with the lamentable repercussions of such machinations.

It is up to school, the family and work to educate people to be more tolerant. The media does its best, but ignorance and prejudice seem to spring eternal.

They always put in a fresh appearance, differences being merely in degree. At times they are less widespread; at present more widespread.

This is not to say that everyone who has been known to give vent to dissatisfaction with states of affairs for which migrant workers may be responsible is a racist and a xenophobe.

Foreign residents may, for that matter, have more frequent criminal records in certain categories or areas, but here too there is no justification for generalising.

The overwhelming majority of foreigners who live and work in Germany abide by the law. Many have made permanent friends, married Germans and established ties of various kinds.

They came as strangers but grew used to Germany, just as Germans grew used to them. Initially they may have been rejected because they were different, but they have come to be cordially tolerated as different but fine people.

Herr Baum is right to note the connection between race prejudice and widespread inability to come to terms with foreign residents.

The racist, his report says, opposes in his hatred enerything and everyone who is alien, including Turks who have long been naturalised and deserve to be regarded as fellow-citizens.

What makes right-wing groups particularly dangerous is that they differ widely in the methods they feel are appropriate, thereby making susceptible members of the public liable to fall for their arguments.

They by no means always call for the use of force, but it is almost invariable in the background, as it were.

Their very choice of language shows them, and their counterparts at the other end of the political spectrum, to be brutal and, at the best of times, misanthropic.

If, as Herr Baum says, right-wing activity looks like increasing we shall have to be particularly vigilant.

Karl Hugo Pruys

(Nordwest Zeitung, 20 August 1982)

Neo-Nazis: a bit short on ideas, but ready to die for them

Last year was a record year for crimes by right-wing extremists. Neo-Nazis are increasingly prepared to use force, and what makes them even more dangerous, their mental outlook is suicidal.

On Christmas Eve 1980 Frank Schubert, 23, a right-wing activist, killed two Swiss customs officers and border guards and injured two more in a shoot-out, then committed suicide.

On 24 June 1982 Helmut Oxner, 26, another right-winger, killed three foreigners and injured three in Nuremberg. He too then committed suicide.

On 3 August 1982 Stephan Wagner, 21, dressed in black with a swastika armband, fired shots at passers-by and escaped by taking hostages.

He later released his hostages and broke throught the police cordon, then committed suicide.

These three episode might seem to have nothing in common, yet they share a pattern of escalation. What, one wonders, makes right-wing terrorists tick?

None of these three young men was born a fanatical right-winger. I knew Schubert and Wagner. Our paths first crossed in spring 1979 when they embarked on their right-wing careers.

I first came across Wagner when he and two ideological soulmates marched in uniform into the staff common room of the school where I was teaching.

They wanted to take me to task because I was allegedly responsible for one of their people having being fired.

Despite their warlike appearance it was still possible at that stage to hold a conversation with Wagner and his cronies.

He was thrown out of school and went to stay with his aunt near Frankfurt when his parents were divorced in 1977. Soon afterwards he made friends with a family well-known locally for their right-wing views.

He made contact with right-wing youth groups. After his suicide his aunt had this to say about his motives in a TV interview:

"It was the group that he joined and they gave him strength. Unfortunately it happened to be that particular group. He might well have accepted any other."

Sure enough, it was not ideological conviction that made him seek comradeship and an escape from isolation into the right-wing scene.

His new friends have him straightforward answers to questions he was unable to answer, and he grew increasingly extremist in outlook in response to opposition.

There were counter-demonstrations where he lived, and they were aimed at him among others after his encounters with the police and the notoriety gained from being described in the local paper as a neo-Nazi.

He was later seen as a *Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann* activist in a photo in *Stern* magazine and evidently modelled himself on the Nazi concept of the political soldier.

His story, like that of the other two, testifies to the contempt right-wing terrorists feel for their own lives, let alone those of others.

It is an expression of strict moral views and an ethic of ideology that simplifies social problems into black and white, with the emphasis on the use of force.

They see the use of force as part of the struggle for survival, as the distinction between an elite and the inert masses who can only be roused by spectacular activity.

The values right-wing youngsters concentrate in include struggle, honour, sacrifice and selflessness.

They try to offset the threadbare nature of their political views by personal readiness to give up a bourgeois career and devote themselves entirely to political struggle.

In drawing such a clear distinction between the elite and the masses, between friend and foe, they readily accept not only the idea of violence but also that of risking their own lives.

This is an outlook characterised by ascetic self-denial and contempt for human life. A lengthy prison sentence is viewed as the price a political soldier must be ready to pay.

Young people on the brink of a right-wing career can easily be prompted to burn their bridges by being branded in the media, at school and by the police.

Eike Hennig, a Kassel sociologist, has interviewed 22 right-wing extremist youngsters in depth and evaluated their court records.

He has referred more than once to the problematic character of the issue. Calls for stiffer punishment and strict bans may be understandable, but they are not going to solve the political problem of right-wing extremism.

Right-wing terrorism is based on activities that do not require lengthy planning, and that makes the kamikaze mentality of right-wing youngsters so uncontrollably dangerous.

Their activities may be politically pointless but they matter to other neo-Nazis. Schubert, Oxner, Wagner and others are martyrs.

The role they are allotted is the part played by Horst Wessel and Herbert Norkus for the Nazis prior to 1933.

Peter Dudek

(Vorwärts, 19 August 1982)

Terror of th[e] right link[ed] with failur[e]

The desire to end political [...] and constitutional gove[...] coupled with an inclination to [...] is about all left- and right-wing [extre]mists have in common, says the Justice Ministry.

It concludes from a detailed [...] left-wing extremism and an ini[...] vey of right-wing activities that [...] poles apart in other respects.

Right-wingers, especially you[ng] Nazis, usually have a social back[ground] that would seem to fit the classic [...] nal like a glove.

They are lower- or middle-[class in] origin and have seldom made headway at school or university.

The Ministry has reached the [...] tive conclusion from a survey of [...] wing offenders sentenced between [...] and 1982 that personal failure prompts them to let off steam in [...] wing activities.

This particularly applies to [...] zis, who in many cases are felt to [have] been attracted to right-wing ext[remism] more by disappointments at sch[ool] [and] in the search for a job than by [...] right-wing inclinations and convi[ctions].

The survey also looks into how [...] wingers behave in court. They al[l] [are] keen to tell the world what they [...] are. At times they even seem kee[n to be] given a prison sentence, thereby [...] ing their *Führer*.

A contributory factor could [...] be that both while they are serving [their] sentence and on release they are [...] in the lurch by their right-wing fri[ends].

In Frankfurt and Bochum, for [...] ance, there are well-run organisati[ons to] help right-wingers serving gaol se[nten]ces, and they are generously fin[anced] by donors.

Amendments to criminal code p[roce]dure to help deal with the violent, [terro]rist brand of right-wing extremis[m are] not felt by experts to be needed ju[st ...]

Change sought

But amendments are felt to be ad[visa]ble in dealing with minor neo-Na[zi of]fences, especially those connected [with] agitation, which accounts for the [...] share of court cases against right[-win]gers.

Nazi propaganda ought to be ba[nned] beyond the deadline laid down in [the] statute of limitations.

Selling Nazi emblems is illegal. M[an]ufacturing and importing them ough[t to] be illegal too.

Stricter punishment ought to be [...] ted out for denying that offences [...] committed (the "Auschwitz was [...] lies" line of argument).

Fifty-four political extremists are [cur]rently in prison. Twenty-two pe[ople] have been killed in connection with [ter]rorist crimes of violence.

But the Justice Ministry's surv[ey is] not aimed primarily at compiling [...] statistics or at trying to get legal p[rovi]sions made stricter.

Its main aim is to foster the inte[llec]tual, political debate as a means [of] combating extremism. The upsurge [in] neo-Nazi activities indicates how ur[gent] the need is.

Heinz-Peter Fin[...]

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 26 August [1982])

THE ENVIRONMENT

The role of chemicals in the growing of food

[C]hemicals are universal. Plants ab[...]sorb nitrogen from the soil regard[less] whether it is biologically degraded [...] manure or factory-fresh mineral [ferti]liser.

[C]hemical processes constantly recur [as p]art of the digestive cycle of man [and] animals.

[Ye]t people are still worried by the [...] of chemicals in the soil and chemi[cals] in food.

[...] the German Nutrition Association [...] a number of scientists to say whe[ther] chemicals are helpful or harmful.

[...] life expectancy has increased from [...] the Middle Ages to 75 in Germany [...]y. This partly because of better [...].

[Un]til the mid-19th century famine, [...]y and rickets were common in [Ger]many because of bad eating habits.

[...]ture foods once caused ergotism, [...]tinosis, microbe poisoning and tu[bercu]losis (from infected cow's milk), [says] Mainz medical historian Professor [...]er F. Kümmel.

[B]read frequently contained sawdust, starch and toxic salts, while consumers had to live with plaster of Paris in their cooking salt.

This did not improve until the 1880 Foodstuffs Act and compulsory inspection of meat.

This roughly coincided with the industrialisation of agriculture to enable farmers to feed a rapidly growing population.

Western industrialised countries could never have developed as they did had it not been for mineral fertilisers.

Yet nowadays chemicals in the soil are frequently vilified and there is a persistent trend toward alternative farming along biological and dynamic lines.

Professor Konrad Mengel of the department of plant nutrition at Giessen University does not feel such solutions are an answer.

Mineral fertilisers are indispensable if there is to be food enough for everybody, he says.

In years gone by the yield of one hectare was enough to feed one person. Nowadays it is enough to feed four or five. Alternative farmers harvest crops of only about half the size.

The roots of a blade of corn absorb exactly the amount of nitrogen, salt and trace elements they need for growth. They cannot distinguish between natural manure and mineral fertiliser.

Comparative analysis of wheat grown in one way or the other at the Federal Grain and Potato Research Institute in Detmold has failed to reveal differences in nutritional content or baking quality.

Plant protection agents used by conventional farmers to combat weeds, pests and fungi keep the grain healthy and ensure that people who eat it do not suffer from ergotism or other toxic infections.

Alternative farmers would need to work much more labour-intensively to achieve similar results, but their yields are lower and their produce is more expensive.

Farmers are told to use no more pesticides or other agents than absolutely necessary in order to avoid toxic infections.

Research scientists are also engaged in a constant bud to develop substances that are less toxic in their effect on both man and animals.

The toxins released into the atmosphere by industry, traffic and coal-fired power stations cannot, unlike fertiliser and pesticide input, be accurately quantified.

But lead, cadmium and sulphur dioxide settle evenly on conventionally and alternatively cultivated land, so toxin counts in the soil are unlikely to differ markedly.

Near industrial areas and autobahns the level is high. In rural areas where there is little or no industry the toxin count is low in either case.

One can understand consumers wanting to eat as natural a diet as possible, but can food be natural or ought it to be?

Professor Hanns Frank of the Federal Nutrition Research Institute, Karlsruhe, is an expert on nature's own toxins and well suited to answer this question.

Green beans, he says, need to be boiled 15 minutes before they can be safely eaten. Unripe tomatoes and potatoes contain solamin.

Bitter almonds and the stones of plums, peaches and the like contain highly poisonous Prussic acid. Ocalic acid in rhubarb, spinach, beetroot and gooseberries can cause liver and kidney damage.

Cheese, wine and yeast extract contain biogenic amines. Leaf vegetables such as spinach and lettuce contain nitrate; so does tapwater.

In the human body these two, biogenic amines and nitrates, can be converted into nitrosamines, which are suspected of being carcinogenic.

Natural food is not necessarily good. It may be mouldy or otherwise infected, says Professor Jürgen Sinell of the department of foodstuffs hygiene and technology at West Berlin University of Technology.

The risk of microbe impurities is still much greater than that of a health hazard being caused by environmental toxins or drugs.

A network of checkpoints with sensitive equipment is maintained all over Germany and capable of identifying quantities of toxic substance as minute as a billionth of a gram.

Living standards and public hygiene cannot be maintained without the use of chemicals, says Professor Hans-Jürgen Hapke of the Scientific Research Association's working party on residual toxins in foodstuffs.

Veterinary medicines, fodder additives, pesticides and food additives may only be used subject to official permission. There are limits to the quantities that may be used, and breaches of the regulations are punishable offences.

To the best of current scientific knowledge people in the Federal Republic of Germany need have no immediate fear of chemistry slowly but surely poisoning them.

Overeating and an unbalanced diet have much more serious repercussions at present. They are partly to blame for the high death toll of cardiac and circulatory complaints.

Lotte Ludwig

(Die Welt, 21 August 1982)

Polluted waters threaten fish with extinction

[F]orty-seven species of fish face ex[t]inction in German inland waters, [say]s the Association of German Skin[-div]ing Clubs.

The fresh-water fish most seriously [en]dangered, a round dozen species, in[clu]de the trout, the salmon, the allice [...]d and the lamprey.

The association, which has 330 affi[liat]ed clubs and 18,000 members, has [la]unched a five-year observation pro[gra]mme.

Over 1,000 divers will photograph un[der]water flora and fauna and record [...]-round chemical and biological wa[ter] [...]tings. They will do so all over the [cou]ntry and be aided by five mobile la[bora]tories.

Divers are keen campaigners to keep [wat]erways pure. Last year alone they [hau]led 3,000 tons of garbage out of wa[ter]s in various parts of Germany.

Their tally included garbage typical [of] an affluent society, such as used cars [an]d refrigerators, washing machines [an]d oil drums.

dpa

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 9 August 1982)

Appeal to keep mountains free of litter

The Alpine Association has issued one of its periodic appeals to keep [the] mountains tidy. It calls on hikers to [tak]e their litter back downhill and not [ma]ke an even greater mess of the moun[tain]s.

Let no-one argue that apple cores or [g]nawed bones of pork chops cannot [pos]sibly be packed alongside spare un[der]wear in their rucksack.

The association has distributed [...]000 litter bags in durable plastic with [edu]cational cartoons printed on them to [get] the message across.

They are available free at a number [of] mountain huts and can be suspended [w]ithout difficulty from the bottom of [con]ventional rucksacks.

And there they swing, oscillating merrily and boosting the environmental awareness of the thoughtful hiker as he wends his way back downhill.

The campaign undoubtedly deserves unstinting support even though it prompts nostalgic recollections of past generations of mountain-lovers who were just as keen to keep litter at bay.

Were they pioneers in environmental protection? And if they were, is it not ironic that their children and grandchildren are still having to issue the same appeals?

This having been said, one can but welcome the enthusiasm mountain-lovers devote to alleviating symptoms of mountaineering for a mass public.

But it is no use officials feeling that anti-litter campaigns will solve all the problems. The Alps have other environmental problems that badly need solving.

Campaigning against litter louts is not going to solve problems of overdevelopment.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 August 1982)

The poisonous mushroom season arrives

Mushroom-gathering takes its annual toll at this time of the year. In late summer, as the days grow wetter, growing numbers of mushroom-lovers walk round the woods, their baskets at the ready.

Not everyone can tell the difference between an edible mushroom and a poisonous one. In Munich alone 20 people have been hospitalised in a week with mushroom poisoning.

"This year is going to be a particularly bad one," says Gertrud Mathes, head of the Munich emergency switchboard for poisoning cases.

She runs one of 17 such centres that have existed in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1957.

Most mushroom-gatherers feel they know what they are doing, so when they feel sick and suffer from diarrhoea and colic they are reluctant to admit they may have been mistaken.

Yet they owe their knowledge merely to having read a picture book about what grows in the woods and hedgerows.

Another category of mushroom-gatherers consists of people who readily admit they don't know much about mushrooms, but go out into the autumn woods and gather them by the basket just the same!

Bavarian nature conservationists are upset because, they say, mushroom-gathering has assumed the proportions of a popular sport.

Scores of people scour the woods and pick everything in sight, then flock to the mushroom advice bureau, where 95 per cent of their pickings have to be thrown away immediately.

Many mushroom-gatherers only go gathering because they know the advice bureaus will go through the contents of their baskets and sort the mushrooms from the toadstools.

What matters is that there is someone who will take the trouble for them. They themselves wouldn't know the difference — until it was too late!

The Nature Conservation Association favours mushroom-gathering restrictions, or alternatively a total ban, with advice bureaus being closed too.

This is what is done in the South Tyrol region of Italy, in a number of Swiss cantons and in parts of Austria.

Conservationists feel a number of cases of poisoning could be averted by this move. It would also reduce the havoc wrought on nature.

Alfred Dick, the Bavarian Environment Minister, has warned mushroom-gatherers not to ravage the countryside. In particular, they ought not to trample on poisonous, inedible species.

They should not view mushrooms merely in terms of suitability for eating but look on them as part of nature, in which they have a range of tasks to perform.

Gertrud Mathes, who is a doctor by profession, also has a word of advice. "Don't eat too many mushrooms," she says.

Time and again people eat enormous quantities of mushrooms and then attribute the stomach ache they so richly deserve to mushroom poisoning.

dpa

(Der Tagesspiegel, 24 August 1982)

■ AVIATION

The new Airbus keeps ahead of schedule

The Airbus test division, headed by pilots Bernard Ziegler and Pierre Baud, are about three weeks ahead of schedule on the A 310, Europe's answer to the Boeing 767.

Its performance, which was expected to be good, has proved even better, and the Airbus test staff are in a position to allow themselves the luxury of an occasional long-range test flight.

They are absolutely delighted with their latest model. The third prototype has just flown a five-hour maiden flight. It is the first to use the General Electric engines preferred by Lufthansa.

About 350 of an estimated 1,250 hours of test flights have so far been logged without mishap, and M. Baud says this is largely because most components have been taken from the 310's big brother, the A 300 Airbus.

The A 300 has been airborne for years, so test pilots and engineers can concentrate on systems newly developed or changed in design, such as the wing units and cathode-ray cockpit instrumentation.

The wings are the chief new feature of the A 310, the fuselage having been borrowed from the A 300 (but shortened by nearly seven metres).

Design engineers have succeeded in matching uplift and aerodynamics so well that fuel consumption is even lower than was expected from an improved engine design.

Aerodynamic resistance is 3.5 per cent lower than expected, cruising speed 0.02 mach higher and the altitude at which certain disturbances give trouble is 2,000ft higher.

Long-distance trials have shown the range to be 10 per cent better than expected: 3,230 knots, or nearly 6,000km.

The wing design is nearly supercritical, as aerodynamics specialists call a design that does not cause eddies and require fins or other bits and pieces variously known as wing gates or vortex generators.

The wing is so "clean" that even uplift aids used in taking off or landing have been simplified.

In the first stage of flight trials, M. Baud says, tests have been carried out that might make lengthy aerodynamic design changes necessary. But none were. The design is just right.

The next items on the list are individual systems and the way in which they function together. With so many electronic devices made by so many different manufacturers incompatibilities can easily occur.

When power supply was switched from the auxiliary turbine to the main engines the reading was no longer flashed on to the screen, for instance.

"It's not a serious problem," says the French test pilot, "but it clearly won't do in operational use."

So the computer systems and monitor

Pilot's eye view of the A 310. (Photo: Die

screens will be put through their paces with strict attention to detail; they are the nerve centre of the two-man cockpit, the A 310 being designed to dispense with the flight engineer.

The crew must be able to rely on their electronic equipment, especially the systems that indicate something is wrong, because they are designed not only to show which controls are not working but also to indicate how to rectify the defect.

This failsafe system operates on a single screen, unlike navigational and other instrumentation, which shows up twice, for the pilot and co-pilot, and is, moreover, interchangeable.

To cut costs and weight there are no more mechanical linke between the cockpit and individual systems, such as the ailerons. Orders are given electronically and carried out on the spot.

"The next step is a fly-by-wire aircraft," says M. Baud.

He and his associates wonder why design engineers were so pessimistic about the performance they expected the 310 to give. But the answer is fairly obvious.

It is better to supply the customer with a better product than he was expecting than to have to admit that it doesn't entirely come up to expectations.

Neither the Pratt & Whitney nor the General Electric engines are yet available in their final shape. Engineers still trying to shave a whisker or two fuel consumption.

In terms of an aircraft's life-span saving could be tens of thousands dollars. But the decibel count is factory. It too is better than expected.

Airbus customers take good care ensure that quality is delivered and formance undertakings are upheld.

Lufthansa and Swissair are the customers and have aero engineers their own at Toulouse to supervise sembly of the 310.

They and their test staff keep on the components to be used in version of the A 310 their respective lines have ordered.

The Airbus consortium has every son to be proud of the comparison with US aircraft that are made in connection.

If what airline men say is true, Airbus models are assembled by skilled specialists, whereas US aircraft are outstanding in engineering and design but assembled by semi-skilled operatives.

There is a corresponding price differential, but the Airbus men feel they well in the running. The Boeing may be licensed to fly a few months sooner but the A 310 Airbus looks being as popular with airlines as the 300 has been.

Klaus Müller

(Die Welt, 21 August 1982)

Cost savings by make-believe flying

The Aerospace Research Association has commissioned a special version of the VFW 614 jet as an airborne simulator, or flying laboratory, to help cut aircraft noise and fuel costs.

Airlines are groaning about the spiralling cost of kerosene. People who live near airports have long complained about the noise, the exhaust fumes and even structural damage caused by airliners taking off and landing.

The 614 special under construction by VFW in Bremen will be used to improve flight techniques and enable aircraft to make a perfect run-in, without detours or waits.

This is certain to call for new-look controls, more extensive use of microelectronics, improved information and display systems for pilots and even more sophisticated communications with ground control and other aircraft.

So the flying laboratory will be tested mainly in the vicinity of airports, where the emphasis will be on take-off and landing and on run-ins that save fuel and make as little noise as possible.

The VFW 614 is a fairly small aircraft but the fully equipped special version will be capable of simulating commercial airliners up to and including the jumbo.

This can be done by feeding the pilot's instructions to in-flight computer programmes geared to the dynamic behaviour of other aircraft.

The cockpit can be fitted out with an entirely different set of dashboard controls, making it possible to test the performance of completely new aircraft designs before they have gone much further than the drawing-board.

A formidable amount of electronics will need to be installed on board the experimental aircraft, which is why it will not be taken into service until the end of 1984.

The Aerospace Research Association does not expect to make it available for contract hir until 1986.

Gerhard Taube

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 15 August 1982)

THE CINEMA

Leni Riefenstahl's part in art, politics and a half share of the truth

eni Riefenstahl, director of the Nazi propaganda film *Triumph of the* is 80. This controversial woman on to make an extraordinary post- comeback.

In the opening scene of the film that de her infamous a dark screen slowly es to light revealing a German heic eagle holding the swastika in its

To the sound of the *Horst-Wessel-* we hear the sound of an aircraft ne. Over the dark clouds a propel- aircraft flies and this text is flashed to the screen:

"On 5 September 1934, 20 years after outbreak of the Great War, 16 years the beginning of German suffering 19 months after the start of the rman renaissance, Adolf Hitler flew Nuremberg."

Light breaks through the clouds, the craft starts to descend and there is a 's-eye view of uniformed men rching through the streets of the city. They are there for the Nazi rally and *Führer* arrives from on high to ad- ss them. In Frau Riefenstahl's film has clearly surpassed the limits of re mortality.

In 12 years of the Third Reich there s not a film to equal it in more per- ly giving expression to the Nazi le- d of Adolf Hitler and what he was to stand for.

Nowhere is the special skill of the is at what Walter Benjamin called aestheticisation of politics more rea- apparent than in the films of Leni efenstahl.

Fascination

Trained as a dancer, she must have n fascinated by the theatricality, the reography of the rally, and by the ggestive effect of the march-pasts, ades, torchlight processions, flag secration ceremonies, light shows honour guards for the dead.

Politics is totally transformed into art d made to serve an intimidating, ter- list aesthetics.

The Allies kept *Triumph of the Will* der lock and key after the Second orld War. They were worried by its ggestive rapture even when the 1,000- ar Reich had been buried under piles rubble.

They were understandably worried unwise to react in this way. Natio- Socialism cannot be understood by ndemning to oblivion its hypocritical -portrayals, its liturgies of the pro- se.

Luis Buñuel was asked in the 40s to nt Frau Riefenstahl's Nazi party ference films for use as counter-pro- ganda. He recalls having shown René lair and Charlie Chaplin the result.

Chaplin split his sides and said Hitler a second-rate imitation of himself his film role as the proverbial tramp. Clair was less sure that the films had been sucessfully neutralised.

He felt they were still so effective that American public might leave the cinema feeling German power was still irresistible. President Roosevelt was shown the film, agreed with René Clair, and it was whisked off into the archives.

After the war Germans slowly came to terms with their immediate past, usually by reducing it in scale and making it appear ridiculous.

Hitler's theatricals and perfidious rhetoric were taken out of context and made to look like figures of fun. People who had not lived through the Third Reich were bound to feel the *Führer* had been a foaming charlatan.

Yet if that was all Hitler had been, why was it that millions had followed him into perdition? Much has been written about the banal nature of evil, but its fascination is nowhere more apparent than in Frau Riefenstahl's most famous film.

As a documentary it is unquestionably a masterpiece, and a masterpiece that made her many enemies.

She has always argued that she was interested solely in beauty and aesthetic effects and not in the least concerned with politics.

Hitler personally entrusted her with making a film about the *Reichsparteitag*, or party rally, whereupon she told him she didn't even know the difference between the SA and the SS.

She so grotesquely misunderstood the diabolical nature of the Nazi set-up that she failed to understand her infatuation with the *Führer* was an ideal prerequisite for her *Triumph of the Will* precisely because she was politically naive.

She suggested Walter Ruttmann, the director of *Berlin, Symphony of a City*, as a better choice for the task, and Ruttmann put together a prologue.

In the Weimar era Ruttmann had worked for the Communists and his prologue explained Hitler's rise to power in economic terms, strictly in accordance with the materialistic view of history.

But what Hitler had in mind was something entirely different. He wanted the film to steer clear of history and world affairs, to be a grand demagogical theatre, an intoxicating experience, an overwhelming vision of the mystery of power.

This was the impression the Nuremberg rallies were intended to convey to the masses who took part, and it was certainly what he wanted the film to put across.

So the *Führer* was unimpressed by Ruttmann's prologue and delighted with Riefenstahl's film.

She has consistently said in her defence that she merely filmed what was there to be seen. She was indeed the chronicler of a production, but that was not all her role can be said to have been.

Subtle camera positioning, sophisticated cutting, rhythm, assembly and music intensify the theatricality of the Nuremberg rally and cut out the boredom of endless speeches, march-pasts and parades.

They condense and heighten the effect by making the cinema-goer omnipresent. He is shown everything that went on, much more than any one person who was present at the rally could possible have seen.

It takes the film version to put the Nazi propaganda into full effect.

Frau Riefenstahl says she filmed the truth and nothing but the truth, but where life itself is turned into a lie, untruth is life itself.

Goebbels said *Triumph of the Will* was more than a mere propaganda film along the lines laid down by his Ministry. Not even the most ardent expression of Nazi ideology could offset a lack of true artistry.

Art, he said, derived from being able, not from being willing. By and large the Nazi film industry turned out little that was of the standard Goebbels envisaged and Riefenstahl produced.

Her work was the exception that proved the rule, and it may well be that her sheer brilliance and breath of perverted genius fuelled the fires of endless squabbles.

After films such as *Hitlerjunge Quex* and *SA-Mann Brandt* the Nazis soon lost interest in filming their legends, but everyone who chose to stay in Germany and the film industry contributed to the optical illusion required by the system.

In 1974 Frau Riefenstahl was invited to attend a film festival in Telluride, Colorado. There were protests the city's Jewish mayor sought to appease by saying she was being honoured as an artist, not as an individual.

Can such a strict dividing line be drawn between morality and art? David, the French painter, was an opportunist yet painted masterpieces.

At times art has next to nothing to do with honesty. The social context pales in comparison with personal memories, leaving only the artistic output, bereft of its superficial purpose.

Leni Riefenstahl is gradually being rediscovered, especially abroad where she has emerged as a cult figure alongside Wagner or Ernst Jünger.

She is a virtually ideal embodiment of the Teutonic nimbus of which the French, British and Americans can be so enamoured. Feminists too are quick to excuse her shortcomings.

They see her as a woman who held her own in an era tht upheld entirely different ideals, Cocteau once called a genius of the screen. This is sure to upset those who fail to see how art can prevail where terror and mass murder reign and are given to equating barbarity and the banal. Schiller, the German Classical dramatist, saw beauty as being the appearance of freedom. Leni Riefenstahl transfigured the very opposite, submersion into the masses. *Triumph of the Will* is an apotheosis of uniformity, unanimity, strength and power. It backs soulless order against living chaos, uniformity against the spontaneity of freedom. Its monumental approach was not just an ideology but the expression of human longing and so very much in keeping with the period that even foreigners were impressed.



Still taking pictures ... Leni Riefenstahl in the 1970s. (Photo: Sven Simon)

In retrospect it is easy to pass judgment on Frau Riefenstahl's films. In a production by the Theatre du Soleil Klaus Mann's *Mephisto* was contrasted with still photos from Auschwitz.

This is an unhistorical, impermissible approach that has also been used in polemics against Frau Riefenstahl's work. It is unnecessary.

Even in the context in which they originated her films are by no means chaste and unpolitical.

Triumph of the Will was an attempt to make people forget the *putsch* in which SA leaders were eliminated and to demonstrate closed ranks in Nazi Germany.

Her Olympic films fostered the illusion of a peace-loving Germany. They contain not the slightest trace, however hidden, of opposition to what at the time was politically opportune.

Yet those who chose not to keep their eyes closed could read between the lines of the Nuremberg rally, with its aggressive ritual, and visualise the disaster that could not be long in coming.

Ther is also evidence in support of Frau Riefenstahl's claim that she was interested solely in power, beauty and grace.

In her film about the Berlin Olympics more attention is definitely paid to Jesse Owens than will have been to the linking of Nazi race ideologists.

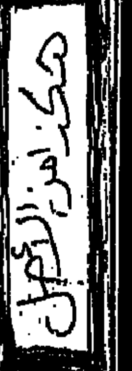
It is foolish to insinuate that this was a subtle form of resistance to the Nazi regime. Frau Riefenstahl was definitely part of the Third Reich.

In an interview she said Hitler was the greatest man who had ever lived. All great Germans, such as Nietzsche and ~~Bismarck, had had their failings; not so~~ the *Führer*. He alone was pure.

So she is on record as having said more than her fair share of fatuous nonsense. She was unquestionably pro-Nazi. But her films were less an expression of ideological outlook than of an aesthetically reduced relationship to reality.

As for her working methods, she said she first thought what to begin with,

Continued on page 12



■ HERITAGE

German archaeologists shovel up more at digs in Syria

German archaeologists are doing more spadework than ever in Syria. There will be at least a dozen digs and searches in various parts of the country this year.

The scientific headquarters of German archaeologists in Syria has for over two years been the office of the German Archaeological Institute in Damascus.

It supervises no fewer than five research projects in conjunction with Syrian archaeologists: in Damascus, in Palmyra, in Dumair (midway between the two), in Tartus and in Bosra.

The Damascus office is the 11th regional facility of the institute abroad. It was set up in October with the aid of a three-year grant from the Volkswagen Foundation.

It is the only foreign archaeological office currently based in Syria and concentrating solely on digs in Syria and in neighbouring Jordan and Lebanon.

Michael Meinecke, director of the Damascus office, recently outlined its work to an audience at the Goethe Institute in the Syrian capital.

German archaeology, he said, could look back on a long tradition of digging in this part of the world, which was why his institute had been given the go-ahead.

Spreading out

Since the turn of the century German archaeologists had played a leading role in unearthing Syria's past, and given the supra-regional importance of Syrian art and culture it was surprising a facility had not been established earlier.

Efforts had been made. The head office of the German Archaeological Institute decided in 1917 to set up a regional office in Damascus.

The suggestion was made by Theodor Wiegand, head of the department of antiquities at Berlin's museums and later president of the Institute, who was working in Syria at the time.

It was thwarted by political developments as it happened, but if it had been set up it would have been the institute's third foreign station, the first two being in Rome and Athens.

Stations since established have been Istanbul, Cairo, Madrid, Baghdad, Tehran, Sanaa, Lisbon and Ankara.

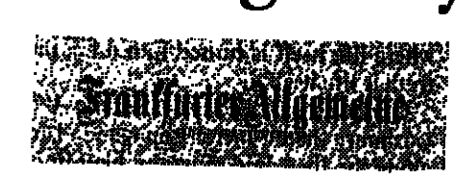
The 1917 bid, Meinecke said, was the result of 20 years of intensive research by German archaeologists in Syria, starting with 1897 and 1898 expeditions by Rudolf Ernst Brünnow and Alfred von Domaszewski.

They were first to file reports of numerous Roman and later historic monuments in Syria.

Kaiser Wilhelm visited the Ottoman Empire in 1897, taking in Damascus and Baalbek, and from then on funds were forthcoming to finance archaeological research.

The Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft was set up not long after, initially concentrating on the excavation of Babylon but later digging in Syria too.

Excavations also began in Baalbek, supervised by Otto Puchstein, another later president of the German Archaeological Institute.



In a dig lasting several years the ruins of Palmyra were first probed in 1902, as were Roman temples in Syria and Lebanon.

In the course of an extensive expedition Max von Oppenheim, a German diplomat, discovered in 1899 the capital of a first-millenium-BC principality at Tell Halaf at the source of the Habus, a tributary of the Euphrates.

This tell was excavated with interruptions until 1929, systematically and with results.

The last major early research project in Syria Meinecke mentioned was a result of the expedition to the Euphrates region by Friedrich Sarre, head of the Islamic department at Berlin's museums.

Most of these projects were masterminded from Berlin, but Sarre's visit was to prove particularly fruitful.

Together with Ernst Herzfeld, the architect, he undertook in 1907 and 1908 a topographical survey of Rusafa, a centre of pilgrimage in late antiquity, and the early Islamic city of Raqqa.

Archaeological research in Syria first peaked when in November 1916 a a Turkish-German unit for the protection of historic monuments was set up, headed by Theodor Wiegand.

It had only a year in which to work, but it worked hard until the Turkish forces withdrew from Syria. Its findings were published in a series of books that for the most part remain standard works on their subject.

This spate of activity was to have led to the establishment of a Damascus unit of the German Archaeological Institute, but the end of the First World War ended the whole idea.

It was not taken up again until after the Second World War, when Syria gained independence and German archaeologists were invited by the directorate-general of antiquities and museums to undertake larger digs after a break of over 30 years.

The fresh start was begun by Johannes Kollwitz in 1952 at Rusafa, where digging continued until 1966 and was resumed in 1976 under the supervision of Thilo Ulbert on the institute's behalf.

Work at Rusafa is still going on.

From 1956 Anton Moortgat excavated tells in north-eastern Syria. From 1958 he embarked on several digs at Tell Huweira near the Turkish border under the auspices of the Oppenheim Foundation.

Tell Huweira dates back to the third millenium BC. Excavation there is shortly to be resumed.

In 1962 and 1963 Klaus Brisch, working from the Cairo office, excavated the early Islamic palace complex at Usais in the southern Syrian desert.

Germany has stepped up archaeological work in Syria over the pat two decades, Meinecke aid, because of its international appeal to probe ruins in the north that were threatened by the Euphrates dam.

Leading German archaeologists engaged in field work here have included Ernst Heinrich, Hartmut Kühne, Winfried Orthmann, Wolfgang Röllig and Eva Strommenger-Nagel.

Several digs and surface probes have been followed by a spate of further activity. Five major German digs are planned in the Euphrates area, so Syria, Meinecke said, is clearly a hub of German archaeological activity in the Middle East.

This dynamic development laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Damascus office. Its brief is to probe the "independent development of the Syrian art region beyond national borders and bearing in mind reciprocities with neighbouring areas at all times."

He referred to a touring exhibition, The Land of Baal — Syria: Forum of Peoples and Cultures, as an illustration of the supra-regional significance of the Syrian art region.

The exhibition has already been shown in several German cities and is yet to go on show in Aachen, Tübingen, Frankfurt and probably Munich.

Wilhelm Kl...

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 August 1982)

Third World museum exhibits 'should be returned'

Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, Minister of State at the Bonn Foreign Office, says some, if not all, of the Third World's cultural heritage owned by German museums should be returned to countries of origin.

A "liberal, open approach" to developing countries' demands for restoration of their cultural birthright should be taken, she said on returning from a Unesco conference in Mexico City.

As proposed by Greece and other countries the conference unanimously adopted a resolution calling for international negotiations on the subject.

Frau Hamm-Brücher says Bonn

Mannheimer Morgen

ought to hold talks with museum directors and the *Länder* to see whether foreign exhibits might not be handed back on occasion as a token of good will.

An opportunity might, she suggested, be the centenary in 1984 of the treaty by which Germany assumed responsibility for its former African colonies Togo and Cameroon.

She feels sure the return of works of art will be the major topic at international cultural gatherings for years and decades to come.

Frau Hamm-Brücher, a Free Democrat, represented the Bonn government and Hanna-Renate Laurien, West Berlin's Christian Democratic education Senator, represented the *Länder* in Mexico.

As head of the German delegation she felt the outcome of the conference must be viewed with mixed feelings.

She was happy to feel that the final declaration had endorsed the fundamental Westers viewpoint regarding freedom of the arts.

She also welcomed the approval given to Bonn's call for socio-cultural aspects to be paid greater attention in development aid.

But she was critical of poor conference organisation, of too much paperwork, politics and polarisation in debate.

She also said attention should be paid at the EEC level to attacks by Jack Lang, the French Arts Minister, on Western countries he accused of cultural imperialism and colonialism.

dpa

(Mannheimer Morgen, 11 August 1982)

A half share of the truth

Continued from page 11

what was suitable as a conclusion, where the best material was available and how to heighten the effect.

In keeping with the requirements of rhythm and tension she interspersed speeched by Nazi leaders with shots of their audience and the entire *ambience*.

This she did with no less sophistication than the way in which she underlined the growing fatigue of a marathon runner by close-ups of his legs as they grew heavier.

Never has sports reporting been more impressive, or political ritual, for that matter. She may claim never to have been particularly interested in either sport or politics, so much may be attributed to the intuition, feeling and compliancy of an aesthetic extremist.

Prior to 1933 she directed films about the mountains of her native Bavaria, full of fateful, mystical, secretive traits. In films such as her *The Blue Light* Siegfried Kracauer and others have discovered pre-fascist characteristics.

But such allegations are nonsense, just as is the accusation that her footage of Nubas in the Sudan bears a resemblance to the black uniforms of the SS.

"I am fascinated," she once said, "by what is beautiful, strong, healthy and alive. What I seek is harmony."

She always has been and still is an aesthetic extremist. Her films testify to genius and to the borderlines of this intoxication with beauty, glamour and monumentality.

Never has the undeniable power of seduction exercised by the Nazi been displayed more strikingly than in Frau Riefenstahl's films.

As the late Rainer Werner Fassbinder put it: "The *Führer* was simply something marvellous and grandiose as people saw him."

Leni Riefenstahl's films deal with the deceptive fascination exercised by dictatorship, and that is why they retain their share in the truth: a half-share.

Michael Schwarze

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 August 1982)

■ EDUCATION

No youthful blanket of resistance to technology, says report

There is no great blanket of opposition to technological progress among young people, says a survey commissioned by Bonn Education Minister Björn Engholm.

The survey was carried out to find out whether technical education policies are geared to the demands of commerce and industry.

The Council of Scientific Advisers to the Bonn government warned not long ago that it would be a mistake to perpetuate the legend that there was a shortage of skilled manpower in technical trades.

If policies were pursued on this basis, the outcome might well be a surplus of technicians, it claimed. In a preface to the surveys, Herr Engholm writes:

"We are bound to approve of the commitment shown by young people worried about overburdening the planet, keen to improve the environment and determined to ensure that their children will still be able to breathe fresh air, hear birds sing and see green woods and forests."

"But Luddite views and failure to realise the importance of a high level of technology for the economy, job safety and society as a whole is as dangerous as blind faith in what is technically and economically feasible."

The debate, he says, must be brought down to a more objective level now that naive belief in technology has given way to a more level-headed, critical point of view.

Increasing proof was required of the need for large-scale technological projects, calling for more discussion and greater powers of conviction in the early stages.

But that ought not to give cause for complaint provided it helped to ensure that technology grew safer and socially more acceptable and possible follow-up damage was avoided.

Views might have changed, but that did not mean that an entire generation of young people could be dismissed wholesale as hostile to technology.

The survey showed in detail that this wholesale claim was unwarranted. Forty-six per cent of young people questioned said they were generally in favour of technology.

Twenty-six per cent of the sample, a representative cross-section consisting of 2,000 youngsters, said they were on the sceptical side.

Twenty-nine per cent admitted that their views were ambivalent.

Young people were neither prepared to accept technological progress uncritically nor generally opposed to the whole idea of technological progress.

Eighty-nine per cent agreed that technological progress is not bad in itself but it can be harmful at times if exaggerated.

Even young people who feel technological developments are more ominous than useful are by no means simply opposed to technology. Some are keenly interested in it.

Fifty-seven per cent of young people are taught a technical trade, Herr Engholm notes. Last year 36.1 per cent of university freshmen studied mathematics, science and engineering.

The number of freshmen studying engineering was 18.6 per cent higher than in 1980, which was an above-average increase.

The survey also shows that there are no fundamental ideological objections to technical careers, certainly not among young people with a certain amount of interest in technology.

So it is untrue to say that because of a dislike of such jobs the labour market is being deprived of potential scientists or technicians.

But Herr Engholm is worried about relations between school and technology and the wide gap between girls and technology.

While 57 per cent of boys said they were keen or very keen on technology, only 15 per cent of girls claimed to be interested.

He attributed this difference between the sexes and the different behaviour patterns adopted by girls in career choices to traditional expectations to which they were subjected in the family, in their social surroundings and in the media.

The girls themselves were well aware that inability to cope with technology was a handicap.

"One of the most important findings of the survey, as I see it, is that more must be done to develop and encourage an interest in technology among girls.

"Close cooperation between home, school, the media and employers is called for," he wrote.

Technical basic knowledge and judgement ought also, he feels, to be taught as a matter of course at school. Including technical applications and problems in lessons is an outstanding opportunity of opening school to the reality of life.

Technology need not be included as a separate subject on the curriculum; it could well be incorporated in all existing subjects, especially maths, science and work studies.

Work studies, he says, must be a compulsory subject for students at all categories of school.

Roughly three out of four said they were not taught enough about technology at school. They were particularly critical of failure to relate lessons to life in practice.

Asked what they would have preferred to learn at school, they listed, in this order:

- practical technical skills,
- ability to judge the benefit and dangers of technology,
- knowledge of the modern working world and what technical careers called for,
- and a knowledge of the practical uses to which technology could be put.

Herr Engholm said it would be wrong to expect too much of school. It must not try to take society's place in ensuring that new large-scale technologies are readily accepted.

This was not a problem that affected only the young. "Only an open social debate on the opportunities and risks of new technology can lend a helping hand in this connection.

"Young people can thus learn that technological innovations must also be coped with in social terms."

Ada Brandes

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 12 August 1982)

Germans bankroll South African black teachers' college

A training college for black teachers is to be built in the black township of Soweto, in Johannesburg, with the help of German cash.

German companies in South Africa and the *Land* governments of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate are raising 750,000 rand (about DM1.6 million).

The Bonn Foreign Office is to supply another 900,000 rand toward staff salaries, it was announced at a ceremony to lay the foundation stone.

The training college will cost an estimated 1.2m rand, or DM2.6m, to build and is intended to provide much-needed in-service training in maths and science for poorly trained black teachers.

Les than 40 per cent of staff at senior schools for black students in South Africa are suitably trained.

"The general level of education suffers and that is something a developing society cannot afford," said a representative of the centre's sponsor, the Urban Foundation.

The foundation uses funds privately donated to improve living conditions in black South African townships.

German companies active in South Africa hope to have shown by their contribution toward the cost of building the centre that "genuine progress toward equality of opportunity in South Africa can only be accomplished via comprehensive, swift and effective improvements in education for black South Africans at all levels."

The private sector must join forces with the state in helping to ensure that this development is undertaken fast enough.

Ekkehard Eickhoff, the German ambassador in South Africa, said the project was a contribution toward peaceful development for a harmonious and stable future of all races in South Africa.

This German initiative, he said, showed that the cultural agreement between Bonn and Pretoria was not intended only for one group of the population but for everyone in both countries.

The German-financed centre will form part of a comprehensive further education centre in Soweto costing about 3.2m rand, or DM7m, in all.

The buildings will be financed largely by company and foundation funds and are due to be completed by 1984.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 19 August 1982)

■ MEDICINE

Inside the body: new examination method is '100 times better than X-rays'

Tomosynthesis is the latest 3D X-ray technique of looking inside the body or, in this case, the brain. One of its pioneers is a neuro-radiologist in Würzburg, where Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen discovered the X-ray in 1895.

To demonstrate the new technique Professor Maschallah Nadjmi slots into position an X-ray plate consisting of dozens of exposures arranged like a chessboard.

He closes in on the plate with a miniature camera, while on the monitor screen brain tissue is seen with increasing clarity.

Every blood vessel, even the tiniest, is clearly visible in three dimensions, and the diagnosis is equally self-evident to the brain specialist.

The patient is suffering from a dangerous vascular contraction at a certain point in the brain. Surgeons can now decide where and how to operate and estimate the risks of brain surgery.

Professor Nadjmi is a naturalised German. He is Persian by birth. He is head of the department of neuro-radiology at Würzburg University Hospital's brain clinic.

The new technique is his brainchild. It is a distinction he shares with staff at the Hamburg medical research laboratories of Philips, the Dutch electrical engineering multi.

Mathematicians, physicists and radiologists at the Philips laboratories have spent years putting Professor Nadjmi's ideas into practice.

Unlike conventional computer tomography, tomosynthesis uses a number of X-ray cameras arrayed to cover the subject from all angles.

"We make each exposure using two dozen X-rays arrayed in different positions," he says, "and then go on to decode the overall picture.

"In practice we can penetrate the entire object, including all strata required for diagnosis, and evaluate them accurately and in our own good time afterwards, without the patient needing to be present."

Tomosynthesis is a further development of computer tomography, which is used in most large hospitals nowadays.

In computer tomography the patient is passed through the circular aperture of a special X-ray device and X-rayed in cross-sections a centimetre apart.

It is the most important new departure in radiology since the war and earned Britain's Godfrey Hounsfield the 1979 Nobel Prize for medicine.

Professor Nadjmi and his Würzburg associates joined forces with the Philips research scientists in Hamburg to improve on computer tomography.

Tomosynthesis, he says, enables the specialist to make a diagnosis 100 times better and more detailed than would be possible using conventional X-ray exposures.

"A tumour, a blood clot or a brain abscess differ in absorption from healthy brain tissue," he explains. "So use of contrast substances, which is not entirely harmless, is no longer necessary."

The radiation bombardment by two dozen X-rays simultaneously is [illegible]. Low-grade radiation is used, as by [illegible]tists, with the result that overall radiation is lower than in all other techniques.

Professor Nadjmi, who edits [illegible] radiological atlases, readily admits the new technique still needs to be proved. The process can be both accelerated and simplified by computerisation.

Tomosynthesis has successfully undergone two years of clinical trials [illegible] is still too expensive to be used in [illegible] than the largest hospitals.

But it will be indispensable not [illegible] in brain damage diagnosis but also [illegible] heart, lung and orthopaedic surgery [illegible] claims. Research into further uses is already in progress.

Heinz Günther

(Die Zeit, 13 August 1982)

Women 'don't take lightly' decisions on abortion

Women think carefully about abortion before making a decision, says a report for the Bonn Family Affairs Ministry compiled by Hanover medical sociologists.

Karl Oerter of the medical sociology department at Hanover medical faculty interviewed 206 women. Half had an abortion in Holland, half in Germany.

One woman in four questioned, says Dr Oerter, felt she would face serious difficulties if she had the child. A third anticipated very serious difficulties and a further third said they would face overwhelming problems.

The difficulties were mainly a matter of work. One woman in five said her financial position would have been impossible if she had gone through with the pregnancy.

Forty per cent felt a baby would make work more difficult and 45 per cent said they would no longer be able to work at all.

Nearly four out of 10 men said they felt unable to decide, whereas only one in 10 felt they would back the woman's decision to the hilt whatever she decided.

Eight per cent of the women felt pressurised by their men to have an abortion but none were keen on the alternative recommended by anti-abortionists.

They did not want to have the child and let it be adopted or see it go to foster parents or into care. "If I have it I want to keep it," they all said.

The report also revealed that contraception as currently practised is unsatisfactory as a means of preventing unwanted pregnancies.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 August 1982)

'Uppers and downers not for kids,' parents warned

Too many parents give drugs to children who cannot sleep or have trouble at school, reports Bonn's Health Ministry.

"It's a dangerous thing to do," says Claus Grobecker, parliamentary state secretary to the Health Ministry. "Some drugs can be habit-forming if taken for any length of time."

He warned parents in connection with the findings of a survey by the Federal Health Education Centre, Cologne.

Thirty-six per cent of parents questioned said they saw nothing wrong in giving children and young people drugs to help them concentrate or to improve their performance.

One in five would use tranquillisers or sedatives if a child was restless. Parents even drug toddlers and infants.

Herr Grobecker says there is a dangerously widespread inclination to take drugs to deal with run-of-the-mill complaints such as headaches, insomnia and the like.

"It is alarming to see how thoughtlessly many adults take these drugs themselves," he said. "Giving them to children is even worse. Uppers and downers are not for kids."

Tranquillisers are particularly dangerous, the Cologne agency feels. They are not only habit-forming but also put a damper on a child's natural activity.

The Health Ministry advises parents to steer clear of drugs that claim to boost performance or heighten concentration. They are usually vitamin-based and do no harm, but they don't get at the root of the problem either.

A child that is suffering from lack of concentration often does so because of domestic circumstances. Children who cannot concentrate mainly come from homes where they are not given enough love and attention.

When poor concentration is genuinely due to vitamin shortage, the Ministry says, a healthy diet with plenty of food rich in vitamin and protein is more use than pills.

Eating habits in many families are also said to be alarming. Many children are fed nothing but junk food, such as potato chips, ice cream and soft drinks.

Families with children also tend to eat under greater pressure and with less peace, quiet and pleasure than the population as a whole.

This too will tend to have an adverse effect on children's ability.

Jürgen Sussenburger

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 21 August 1982)

Health authorities take closer look at drugs on the market

Drug manufacturers, who pride themselves on having made the Federal Republic of Germany the world's foremost pharmaceutical supplier, have come under heavy fire this year.

First there was a headline-hitting Austrian book about dubious methods in the trade, then a claim by German scientists that two heart drugs in three were pointless and useless.

Now the Federal Health Office in West Berlin has questioned nearly 1,000 painkillers on sale in Germany, and it has only just begun its closer look at about 140,000 drugs on the market.

The new Pharmaceutical Drugs Act requiring trials of drugs before they are marketed has only been in force for four-and-a-half years.

So the Health Office has not been putting new drugs through their paces for long, but 70 per cent of new products fail pharmacological and toxicological tests.

They are ruled out because tests with laboratory animals or other trials have shown them to be liable to have side-effects.

Clinical tests then follow, with human patients taking the place of the proverbial guinea-pig. A new drug is usually tried out on 1,000 to 2,000 patients. At times it is given to up to 10,000.

More is not practically possible. There is not enough time, not enough money and there are not enough patients prepared to volunteer.

If trials show the drug to be beneficial and the benefits to be greater than the risks observed, the Health Office has to give it the go-ahead even though it may be nothing new in comparison with drugs already on the market.

The third stage of safety checks involves patients who are not conveniently available in hospital because, for instance, their condition is not serious enough to warrant hospitalisation.

But doctors, drug manufacturers and pharmacists are required to submit details of cases in which they suspect a drug is proving harmful.

When there are frequent reports of trouble with a certain drug, action is called for.

Pharmaceutical and medical literature is also monitored, while hospitals and general practitioners all over Germany have been briefed to keep an eye on specific drugs.

The procedure has its shortcomings but has proved satisfactory by and large. The problem is what to do about the tens of thousands of drugs on the market before the new regulations came into force.

The Health Office does not have the manpower to check them all, so it was decided to regard all medicines on the market in 1978 as having been approved until 1990.

Research scientists have since gradually tried to categorise, classify and probe this stock in trade.

Computer stocktaking was indispensable because the 140,000 patent medicines include all manner of obscure products, regionally marketed [illegible] cures and brand names manufactured by local pharmacists.

A start was made with painkillers, [illegible]

Continued on page 15

MODERN LIVING

Bremen gets an ombudswoman to make sure women don't get sat on

[illegible] women's rights department has started work in Bremen. It is independent and has a budget of its own [illegible] year: DM83,000).

Unlike other watchdog units round [illegible] country, this one has its independence and its money guaranteed by law.

[illegible]sel Kerstein, head of the department, is unhappy with its cumbersome German name: *Bremische Zentralstelle für die Verwirklichung der Gleichberechtigung der Frau.*

It means Bremen Centre for the Implementation of Equal Rights for Women, but Frau Kerstein has appealed to Bremen people to think up a simpler name.

Before being approved in her new job by the city council and appointed by the Senate she served six years as a Social Democratic councillor.

She is a social worker by occupation and has contacts with people and departments that should now stand her in good stead.

As women's rights ombudswoman she aims to be impartial and to help anyone who feels she is being subjected to sexual discrimination.

Opponents of the whole idea say her department is absolutely superfluous. She is determined to show them it is not a waste of time and money.

She used to have an office in the *Rathaus*, or town hall, but found outside contacts were hard to establish. The town hall deterred people from calling.

So she and her staff of five, including a woman lawyer and social scientist, have moved to a floor of the building that used to house the US consulate-general. Now they have a regular stream of visitors.

Understandably, most are women. Their problems range from difficulties in finding work to uncertainty over pension rights.

"We spend much of our time working as a referral centre for complaints," says Frau Kerstein. "What we can't do on the spot we refer to other departments."

On Friday she is usually the only woman at the weekly meeting of Senate directors, who are equivalent in rank to state secretaries and lay the groundwork for the Monday session of the Senate, or state government.

Her legal brief is to check and help to ensure that equal rights for women at work, in education and in society are upheld in Bremen.

She is determined to breathe life into what is a somewhat dry definition of her terms of reference as ombudswoman.

She has, for instance, written to all political parties in the city to ensure that women are given a suitable number of places high up on their tickets for next year's city council elections.

She has also written to the public transport department because bus and tram drivers were given cut-price season tickets for their wives.

What, she asked, about the husbands of women employees? She was told there was not enough money to issue cut-price tickets for them too. So she has taken her complaint to the board of directors.

Before the new school year starts she is keen to discuss with Bremen teachers the need for education and vocational training opportunities for girls.

Her department encountered stiff opposition before it was even launched. Time will tell whether it can accomplish what it has set out to do.

But Frau Kerstein is optimistic. She is out and about much of the time, holding talks and giving lectures, both doing the talking herself and listening to others.

She is a keen cyclist ("no-one knows I used to be just as keen a rally driver,") and has two grown up children.

"People have come to accept us," she says. Her department is preparing a touring exhibition on sexist advertising in Bremen.

She discussed the subject on TV with a local advertising executive who blandly argued that all women with big breasts were stupid.

She was amazed. "We aren't against men," she said. "We really aren't. But I am sorry to say that only a man could say anything so stupid and wrong."

Lilo Weinsheimer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 17 August 1982)

Business advice in the twinkle of a star

Astrologers are often consulted before companies reach major decisions, says *Metall*, the monthly magazine of the 2.7m-member metalworkers' union *IG Metall*.

In some states, such as Bavaria, astrologers' fees are even deductible as company expenses, iron, steel and engineering workers are told.

A reporter posing as a businessman about to launch a company, called on astrologers all over the country and telephoned others to ask what services they provided in connection with setting up companies and selecting staff.

In Munich alone three astrologers were found to be in this lucrative line of business.

One said he advised companies not only in hiring management staff but also on ordinary workers who could, he said, so easily be a spanner in the works.

Munich astrologer Ingo Hahn-Rossek says leading companies frequently seek astrological advice. "They bring me the astrological data and I check whether they can expect a man to be loyal to the company or not." He is frequently consulted in this way.

Renate Sydow, of Hamburg, is also consulted. She claims to have 200 regular corporate customers who pay between a hundred and DM50,000 in fees.

An official of the Bavarian Finance Ministry says company horoscopes are tax-deductible all over the country and thus subsidised by the taxpayer. The Ministry was not prepared to give a value judgment.

Hesse's Finance Minister Heribert [illegible] said there has been a substantial increase in expenses claimed for astrological services, but he felt they were generally valid.

Yet such expenses are regularly upheld by inland revenue officials all over Germany, the magazine claims.

dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 August 1982)

Continued from page 14

[illegible] dealing with all drugs containing pyrazolon. The Health Office restricted their use in some cases last March.

Some were suspected of damaging blood make-up and causing a state of shock, although the cases reported were most infrequent.

Manufacturers then voluntarily withdrew 3,000 drugs from the market. They had agreed to do so beforehand in the wake of a Health Office announcement in December last year.

Other manufacturers have appealed. The Berlin agency has a wide range of powers. It can call on manufacturers to make voluntary arrangements. It can require them to rewrite the instructions to include a warning to the user.

It can also withdraw recognition of the drug or, if there is any immediate danger, impose an immediate and total ban on its sale.

It seldom has to go to such lengths. It is usually enough to publish warnings.

Gerd Rauhaus

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 18 August 1982)

Farmer Gump stumps up

In Bavaria the Roman Catholic church is entitled to claim both cash and kind from its flock, an Augsburg administrative court has ruled.

A 60-year-old farmer, Johann Gump, has been sentenced to pay the church 12 loaves of bread a year in accordance with tithe rights dating back centuries.

Gump, who farms 100 acres in Herbertshofen, near Augsburg, was taken to court by the church because he refused to maintain the tradition.

In centuries gone by wealthy farmers in many parts of the country were bound to contribute toward their parish priest's upkeep in grain, butter and firewood.

The episcopal authorities argues that this age-old right still existed and was embodied in a Bavarian law passed in 1954.

Two farmers in the village have continued to pay DM18 a year in bread money, but Farmer Gump stopped doing so in 1973. His lawyer told the court the custom no longer made sense nowadays.

"I already pay DM1,500 a year in church tax," he added. If he lost his case, he said, he would dump 100 loaves at the back door of the priest's home.

But the need no longer arises. The court found that a cash settlement was more suitable. He was ordered to pay DM48 a year in future and DM225 for the loaves he failed to deliver.

dpa

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 18 August 1982)

Taxman's battle against the girls who walk on easy street

Taxmen can say to the nearest pfennig how much bakers or plumbers, doctors or estate agents earn, but statistics about what prostitutes and call girls earn are not available.

Theirs is the only trade in which taxmen have drawn a virtual blank. They earn up to DM100,000 a year and, with few exceptions, pay no tax.

So despite instructions to leave no stone unturned in their quest for taxable income, German inland revenue officials are missing out on revenue totalling an estimated DM2bn a year or more.

The *Bundesfinanzhof*, or supreme tax court, in Munich ruled in 1969 and 1970 that immoral earnings were taxable, so for over a decade the legal position has been clear.

A prostitute's earnings count as miscellaneous income in according with Paragraph 22 of the Income Tax Act, a provision that entitles the inland revenue to tax bribes and the proceeds of speculation.

The oldest profession in the world is thus liable to income tax and church tax but not, apparently, to value-added tax, which cannot be deducted from business expenses.

But the regulations have not been much use in practise. The taxmen are no nearer consistently taxing immoral earnings than they were a decade ago.

As the head of the inland revenue fraud squad in a West German city frankly admits: "Initially the inland revenue were keen to tap this source of tax, but we have now realised that success is sporadic and more trouble than it is worth."

So taxmen have tended to abandon the attempt to run this lucrative source of revenue to earth. "I have never yet known a prostitute to file tax returns voluntarily," he says.

Now that immoral earnings are no longer illegal, apart from procuring and streetwalking in restricted areas, the police are not much help either.

"We often make a rough estimate and assess income, but by the time we are in a position to send in the bailiff the woman has usually moved on."

Tax returns only work at all satisfactorily in brothels, where arrangements are either agreed or estimates are made and charged.

One inland revenue office keeps a count of the number of bed sheets used and taxes the woman in accordance with this rule of thumb.

But part-timers are an even tougher problem. The police have lately noticed an increasing trend to part-time prostitution, possibly due to the economic situation.

They are students who have been unable to find a vacation job to eke out their scholarship and housewives who are unable to make ends meet on their housekeeping allowances.

Part-timers are making life hard for the professional woman. There are an estimated 50,000 or so in the Federal Republic of Germany earning about DM600m a year.

Horst Zimmermann

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